Daily Report

Latin America

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Lusinchi Speaks at SELA Caracas Meeting

PA182124 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1926 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Text] Caracas, 17 Sep (DPA)—Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi today in Caracas called for "a reinforced economic system" during the opening of the ministerial phase of the 13th SELA meeting, currently being held in the Venezuelan capital. However, he criticized the fact that "despite significant progress" the system's "full potential" has not been fulfilled.

"It is up to us to provide the guidance and resources to make this possible. Perhaps we have not done so to the extent of our needs and demands," he said.

He then acknowledged that "these past years have not been easy, and neither will the coming years. That is why, at no level or place, not even at SELA, can we allow difficulties—which are many and continuing—to dampen our spirit and weaken our convictions."

The president underscored the responsibility of SELA member-states to develop the system further, "without losing sight of the well-known limitations stemming from the international crisis. Our crisis is part of a global one."

"Latin America and the Caribbean are not only subject to difficult economic situations but are also faced with the need to prepare rapidly for momentous changes in production and international trade. The traditional trade barriers imposed by the developed nations on goods from our countries, the drop in the prices of basic materials to unprecedented levels, the constant deterioration in trade terms, and the foreign debt are minimizing the huge efforts we have made to bring order to our economies. These factors are actually hindering the region's recovery and exacerbating its already precarious situation," Lusinchi added.

The Venezuelan president noted that in view of this reality, Latin America and the Caribbean cannot remain passive but "must create their own forms of participation on a basis that will make them feasible and that necessarily involves integration."

He mentioned the foreign debt as one of the "most serious obstacles" to the region's economic development, stressing that "its costly and growing servicing has generated a huge flow of capital toward the international financial centers, curbing our development possibilities in practice."

"By smothering the economies of the developing countries, the foreign debt limits any possibility of negotiation; a broad and frank dialogue with the creditors based on the principle of joint responsibility and the right to development becomes necessary," Lusinchi noted.

He then said that the difficulties faced by the region necessitate mutual cooperation and external coordination. "This is the only thing that will allow us to find our own solutions and defend our collective interests."

Lusinchi said that SELA is a consultation, coordination, and cooperation organization, "the functions of which now look indispensable but will only be effective to the extent that our countries have a common frame of reference to perform them. This clearly integrationist frame of reference to make Latin America and the Caribbean a weighty economic area of international significance has not yet attained the necessary dimension."

Finally, the Venezuelan president said that SELA's reinforcement would seem to require "some prior work to update our respective priorities regarding cooperation and integration of our markets as well as production and financial capacity."

"For SELA to continue its work, its permanent secretariat must count on the financial contributions of the member-states. This is a vital element to fulfill the multiple mandates of the Latin American council," he said.

C.A. Foreign Ministers Issue Communique

PA192359 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 19 Sep 87

[Joint communique of the Central American foreign ministers issued at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua, Nicaragua, on 18 September; read by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman—live]

[Text] The second meeting of the Executive Commission was held in Managua, Nicaragua, on 17 and 18 September 1987 in a cordial and frank atmosphere. The Executive Commission carried out its work according to Paragraph 1, No. 11, which outlines the procedure to establish a firm and lasting peace in Central America. During the meeting the Executive Commission members expressed their deep satisfaction with the steps taken to implement the Guatemala agreement and for the support that the international community has given the document. The Executive Commission members emphasized two highly important events: The installation of the International Verification and Follow-up Commission [CIVS] in Caracas, Venezuela; and the creation of national reconciliation commissions in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.

The Executive Commission held a broad and fruitful exchange of views with the ad hoc representatives of the CIVS concerning the appropriate verification and follow-up actions, as outlined in the procedures to establish a firm and lasting peace in Central America. As a result of this meeting, it was possible to reach a consensus on this issue. The Executive Commission agreed that each country will form, whenever necessary, internal commissions to implement the Esquipulas II agreement. Likewise, the Executive Commission agreed to create working subcommissions to handle the refugees and displaced persons issue.

The Executive Commission members agreed to reactivate the commission to continue negotiations on the topics of security, verification, and control, which were

not included in the draft Contadora document. The Executive Commission also agreed to issue proposals to the ministers in charge of Central America's economic integration regarding the negotiation of regional agreements to accelerate the region's economic and social development and to seek international cooperation.

The ministers analyzed and approved a document that outlines their functions as members of the Executive Commission. The ministers also agreed that the next meeting of the Executive Commission will take place in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 27 and 28 October 1987. The foreign ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras stated their gratitude to the Nicaraguan people and government for their warm hospitality and attention during their stay in Managua.

Managua, 18 September 1987

Cuba

Hijacking Trial Begins for 12 Defendants

FL181232 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Sep 87

[Text] The trial against the citizens who attempted to hijack a Cuban airplane on 10 March and divert it to the United States has begun in the criminal court responsible for handling all crimes against state security in the Havana City Peoples Tribunal.

The 12 people implicated in the criminal action, which was thwarted by the heroic attitude of the plane's passengers and crew, are being tried for the crimes of piracy, illegal exit from the country, larceny, not fulfilling the responsibility of reporting a crime, and other acts against the security of the state.

Thirty of the passengers and crew presented testified during the last session, several of whom even demonstrated injuries and wounds caused by the act of piracy.

The tribunal, presided over by Lic Emilio Jorge Diaz, will continue today with testimonies and reports from the prosecutor and the defense.

'Conclusive' Evidence

FL190335 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0205 GMT 19 Sep 87

[Text] The verdict on the case of the defendants accused of attempting to hijack a Cubana Airlines aircraft and divert it to the United States, will be announced within the next few days, after the Havana Provincial People's Tribunal jury conducts its mandatory deliberations. According to Petition 1687 filed at the Court for Crimes Against State Security, a group of 12 citizens was accused by the attorney general's office of carrying out this piracy act which took place last 10 March.

Numerous people were wounded—including children—as a result of the hijackers' actions in this operation, which was thwarted by the courageous behavior of passengers and crew members of flight CU-706 bound for Nueva Gerona, Isle of Youth.

Citizens (Arturo Ozuela Ramos), Rosalia Gonzalez Lafita, and Armando Rodriguez Alcedo are implicated in the case, according to the results of the investigations. Reports state that citizens Jose Manuel Fernandez Pompino, Rosa Maria Llamos Diaz, Maria Matos Rodriguez, (Caridad Verencidia Guillama), (Manuel Jalido Aponte), Ricardo Acosta Alvarez, Donato Ramos Martinez, [name indistinct] Gonzalez, and Margarita Gomez Aldama, also are among the defendants.

Dr Sara Nieves Rodriguez, representing the attorney general's office, showed in her closing statements how conclusive evidence was presented, during the course of the trial, linking the defendants with the crimes of piracy, illegal exit of the country, theft, and failure to report it. According to the prosecutor's report, it could be seen that the action was studied, analyzed, and premeditated by the main defendants who are: Arturo Suarez Ramos, Rosalia Gonzalez Lafita, and Juan Carlos Jimenez Gonzalez. Jimenez Gonzalez was killed during the action.

The prosecutor explained how the three main defendants were able to take grenades through a small fence that limited access to the facility without being seen by airport personnel. She added that once inside the plane, they attempted to carry out their objective by intimidating members of the crew and offending and insulting the passengers, but the passengers' courageous behavior ruined their plans. Likewise, the prosecutor argued the participation of other defendants accused of stealing the grenades and several who were aware of these plans and failed to report them.

In her closing statement, the prosecutor requested the maximum sentence for Arturo Suarez Ramos and sentences ranging from 30 to 3 years for the rest of the defendants.

Area Reaction to Reagan's UN Speech

FL212317 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Text] The speech given by Ronald Reagan at the UN General Assembly today provoked embarrassing silence among some Latin American representatives and indignation in others.

Reagan ignored the Guatemala peace agreements, which is very sad and unfortunate, said Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco at the United Nations.

Another Latin American diplomat, who asked not to be identified, told AFP that Reagan's speech was an effront. He demonstrated his scorn for Central America and lack of respect for the area presidents.

During his speech to the UN General Assembly, Reagan confirmed that he would continue providing military assistance to the Nicaraguan counterrevolution.

Reagan's position and its implications for peace in Central America will be formidable stumbling blocks for Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who flies to Washington tomorrow for a White House meeting with Ronald Reagan. Later, he will speak with U.S. legislators and, in conclusion, he will give a speech at the OAS.

Before departing San Jose, Arias said the peace agreements may fail if a cease- fire is not enforced before 7 November.

Castro Greets Ecuadoran President's Wife

FL170202 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, this afternoon

greeted Mrs Eugenia Cordoves de Febres Cordero, the Ecuadoran president's wife. Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women; Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers and education minister; and other officials, joined Fidel in giving Mrs Febres Cordero a warm welcome.

The important Ecuadoran woman, who presides over the National Institute of the Child and Family, INFA, is paying a visit at the invitation of the Cuban Government. She is accompanied by Ivan Gallegos, minister of education and culture; (Marcia Gibert), regional delegate of the INFA in Guayaquil, and a group of high-level Ecuadoran officials.

The delegation will visit places of social interest related to the development of family and children.

Fidel Castro Speaks at Immunology Center
FL091639 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Speech made by President Fidel Castro Ruz on inaugurating the Immunology Research Center in the Siboney neighborhood in Havana on 7 September — recorded]

[Text] Distinguished guests, comrade ladies and gentlemen: It seems to me that my first duty on this occasion is to ask you to forgive us for the time that we have had you waiting here in this small plaza, this yard. The ceremony was scheduled to be held at 1830 and the tour began a little after 1730. However, because of the great interest that I and the newsmen accompanying me had in this center, the visit to each of its laboratories, and the talks with each of the technicians and scientists, the tour lasted almost 2 hours. Do not think that it was a lack of consideration, or forgetfulness, but we were faced with that dilemma, and after all, we were gathering information and details that will be of great interest to all the people, so we felt that you would understand if we completed the tour, even if we arrived a little late for the ceremony.

I think that today is a day of happiness for the family of scientists in our country. I believe that in addition, it should be a day of happiness because this center represents an important advance, because we are marching with firm steps along the paths of science toward the achievement of great benefits for our country, which could also be very useful for other countries.

Last year, on 1 July, I believe, we inaugurated—[unidentified speaker interrupting suggests another date] Not when it began. Last year we inaugurated the Genetic Engineering Center. I remember that on that same day, the land was being leveled for this Immunology Research Center.

This center has a history. The first time that I had contact with the teams that were involved, the team of comrades from the CENIC [National Scientific Research Center], a very small team, they had an exhibition in the Palace of the Revolution, in one of the halls of the Palace of Revolution. It was an exhibition of a number of pieces of equipment that had been developed in our hospitals and research centers. I think that the date is recorded somewhere, it might have been 29 July, 29 July 1981. It was also the year of the hemorrhagic dengue epidemic. At that time, it was already being noted. The epidemic, around that time — well, this is not easily read — I don't know if it was on that occasion, or when, I spoke of something [speaker says: At the Cienfuegos Hospital.] It was at the Cienfuegos Hospital that we spoke of the construction of equipment and other things. We expressed great confidence in what we would be able to do in the future. At that time, we asked them to do...[changes thought] When they explained the tests that were being done — they had begun the tests of alphafeto protein [alfafeto proteina], or rather to discover certain congenital malformations through the use of alphafeto protein — I asked them to begin to organize a national program to carry out that research. However, at the time, their equipment was very rudimentary. It was not automatic; it was manual. Nevertheless, with that first scanty equipment, they began to carry out their tests, and they completed a total of 50,000 tests.

In the first place, they had developed the reagents [reactivos]; they had isolated the reagents. They had produced them, and the combination of the reagents, using that rudimentary equipment, made it possible to begin testing. And, as I said, they did a total of some 50,000 tests, which is a considerable number. However, they took on the task of working intensively to improve that equipment, develop the techniques, and carry out more research to obtain more reagents. Thus, they worked rapidly, until the day came in which we realized the importance of creating a center essentially for that work — because they were at the CENIC, in some homes, and in some areas. The team had grown because, as a result of that program, they began recruiting specialists in electronics, computer science, and other sciences. The team had grown and with this, there emerged the idea of building this center. I believe that this decision was reached on 22 January 1986 and construction began — I think that the architect said 10 months ago. On what day did you actually begin to build here? [Man answers: Precisely on 30 June. Yes, on 30 June, I believe I saw the bulldozers begin to clear the land there. And, well the center was built in less than a year. [as heard] There were some final details, and then the center went into operation. We are inaugurating it today, 7 September, but the center has been in operation for some weeks.

Here, of course, we can say that the builders did excellent work, but I think that it would be better to speak of this later, and continue on what we could call the scientific aspect of the center. Today, we have a true jewel here. I

call it that. I think it was a very good idea to create a center for research as well as for production, and to produce not just prototypes, but also some huge equipment.

This center... [changes thought] Here I have to mix what Fernandez Hierro said with what has not been said, in order to decide what is to be said with regard to this center. I believe that he said that it has three [as heard] basic tasks: obtaining reagents, preparing computer programs, developing and producing equipment, and also training personnel. This does not say it all. It has to carry out research for new applications of this equipment, new applications of immunology techniques, and new health programs. The personnel are marching on a path, a road that is really very promising. In general, in the past few decades, science has been characterized by great advances in all areas. Genetic engineering is very new, and is very promising, but these immunology research techniques are also very promising. They are not so new, but I believe that they have taken on a very accelerated pace in the past few years. An immunology technique is vaccination, something so ancient — if something that is about 100 years old can be called ancient. Vaccination is an immunology technique, because they innoculate with a particular product. They produce antibodies and work with antibodies, those antibodies that the body produces when faced with aggression from a virus, or from bacteria. We could say that the body produces weapons to defend itself and vaccination was an extraordinary step forward in the struggle against disease. It has resolved problems that had no other solution. Humanity was actually impotent in the face of each of those plagues and epidemics, until vaccination was developed. So we can say that vaccination is a technique, is that right, Fernandez Hierro? Can we say that vaccination is an immunology technique? Is that the basis of it? [Man says: "It is the antecedent."] It is specifically the antecedent of this.

This has developed from a very interesting natural phenomenon, which is the natural defense mechanism of the organism, of organisms in general. It is on this basis that these new techniques have been developed, techniques that have an immediate practical application. You can see that they began with a technique to discover congenital malformations, some of the most terrible congenital malformations. They developed the reagent. It is true that a reagent may have been developed in other places, but this team developed the Ultra Micro Analytic System [Sistema Ultra Micro Analitico — SUMA]. Its main advantage is that it does analyses utilizing 5 percent of the reagents that are used by any other equipment, the traditional equipment that was on the market of the (Elise) System. They achieved this with a minimum quantity of reagents, and reagents are very expensive. Minimum quantities. How much? Between 3 and 5 percent of the reagents used by traditional equipment.

I believe that this is measured in microliters. It seems that the traditional equipment uses between 200 and 300 microliters, and the SUMA uses 10 microliters. And while we are talking about measures, I read something in a report about a measure that is called a picogram. I asked myself: What is a picogram? I began to see: zero point zero, zero, six zeros and then another zero. I don't know if I am right, but I began to use my mathematics, which I believe are somewhat outdated, [laughter] and I got the impression that a picogram is something like a millionth of a gram. Is that right? [Man answers: Yes] Like a millionth of a gram. And they say that this immunology testing system can detect quantities of certain proteins or products, even if they appear in quantities as small as a picogram. In other words, even if they appear in quantities like one millionth of a gram, this system can detect the presence of that substance. These possibilities are fabulous and they demonstrate... [changes thought] Who knows how many applications this equipment may have?

Well then, the basic contribution of this group of young researchers was to develop this analytic equipment that uses such minute amounts of reagents. To have an idea of what that means, the hundreds of thousands of tests that they have done — of which 350,000 I believe were of the alphabeta [as heard] protein — in some 500,000 tests, and calculating the cost of the reagents, they have spent some $4 million. The cost of those reagents is about $4 million, and a little more, $4 million and a fraction. If they had imported those reagents to carry out those programs — which are no more than initial programs, and if they had used the equipment that is on the market today, they would have had to spend or import between $80 and $100 million in reagents. It is clear that we would not have been able to carry out a program like this one without producing the reagents in the country, or without producing the equipment in the country, or without having produced equipment like this one, because one has to consider what a huge quantity of reagents we would need — from 20 to 13 [as heard] times more reagents to do the same thing with other equipment.

In other words, they have created the conditions that make it possible for our country to carry out this program, which is a part of the prenatal genetics program. It is a part of this, because the prenatal genetics program has a separate laboratory and does other research that is placing our country in a very prominent, perhaps unique, position in the world, as regards these prenatal genetics programs and programs for the prevention of diseases of this kind. They began by discovering one: the congenital malformation of the spinal cord [tubo neural]. These are the truly cruel, mercilessly cruel cases that occur, in which a family has a child born with a deformity of this kind. It becomes a tragedy, the cause of bitterness, sorrow, and unhappiness. One has no idea of what this means, in addition to the uncertainty felt by every pregnant mother about what could happen, although these possibilities are relatively slight.

The early detection of a congenital malformation of this type makes it possible to simply interrupt the pregnancy. It avoids the tragedy of the birth of those children, and it avoids an increase in the infant mortality rate, because many of them are born, cannot adapt to life, and die in their lst or 2d year, or at some other time. Above all, it brings uncertainty to all families, to all family units, to all mothers who are going to have a child, to all grandparents who are going to have a grandchild, to every child who is going to have a sibling, to every aunt or uncle who is going to have a niece or nephew. This examination gives them complete certainty that the child will not have a congenital malformation of that type, and it is not the only type.

Moreover, it is a fail-safe examination. All the tests and diagnoses that have been made have been strictly accurate. Of course, no one is forced to interrupt the pregnancy, but in those cases in which the malformation has been diagnosed, it has occurred mathematically, with absolute precision. Therefore, as the people realize this and have trust in it, we will be able to avoid the cases of congenital malformations.

I asked how the mechanism worked, and they explained in detail. This protein appears in a very high level, higher than normal in the blood of the mother, I believe. The antibodies appear in very high quantities and make it possible to diagnose the illness with absolute certainty. They began with this; it was the first effort. Of course, this is a part of a prenatal genetics program that includes other analyses that are not exactly done by the SUMA, at least not yet, like the genetic (lesito), I think it is called. It can identify (?glycemia); I think it can also identify Down's Syndrome, isn't that right? I believe it also identifies (phenylcetonuria), which is another congenital disease. I believe that it also identifies other metabolic diseases, etc.

The prenatal genetics program is broader. It has enormous value, because it warns of a number of diseases. It warns of a number of illnesses. It can provide early detection of a number of congenital diseases or some that are not prenatal, but perinatal. Well then, the area of what I imagine would be called perinatalogy, is added to another very important task, which is the detection of hypothyroidism in the newborn. Fortunately, the number is not large, but according to research on 35,200 newborn infants examined in the capital over a year and a half — in Havana, there are not so many births as 32,000 [corrects himself] 35,200 in a year...[changes thought] They take a small piece of the umbilical cord; send it to the laboratory, and also through the technique of immunology, using the sum, it is perfectly possible to detect hypothyroidism. If this disease is not diagnosed and treated in time, it results in mental retardation. There must be 1 in every 7,000. For example, they discovered 7 cases. It is 1 in every 7,000, which is not a very high number, but I think that it is very humane to save seven family units, and save seven children from mental retardation.

It does not just save seven children from mental retardation; it also gives the other 35,193 the certainty that they will not have that problem. The SUMA, through the same procedure, with the same little piece of umbilical cord, and using techniques developed by this group of companeros and reagents produced by them, can determine if the child has a propensity toward allergies, whether the child is allergic. And in this case, it is no longer a question of 1 in 7,000, but a case of 13 in every 100.

Because of erroneous information that I had received, yesterday I said at the ceremony at the Julio Trigo Hospital that it was 20 in every 100. It is not 20 in every 100; it is 13 in every 100, but 13 in every 100 is quite a lot. This is more than 4,000 of the 35,200.

Here again, to discover the matter in time makes it possible to warn [the parents] and take all the necessary measures to keep the disease from developing, or at least, to alleviate the symptoms as much as possible. It can be an allergy toward different products, different factors. They explained to us today what protein, what substance, when present in quantities above certain levels, indicates that there is a great possibility that an allergy will develop. It could indicate, for example, that the child should be breast-fed, not for 2 or 3 months, but for a year, when it is a matter of what we could call a medical necessity that would permit better development of the body and could even provide the conditions for the child to assimilate milk better in the future. Measures can be taken at home, in order to avoid the tragedy of allergies, which can take various forms, including asthma.

In our country, like all island countries, the rate of asthma is high, so much so that it affects approximately 10 percent of the population. Therefore, the possibility of discovering the allergy, the propensity toward allergies of that child, is very useful, while at the same time, the mothers of the other 30,500 children can be certain that their children are not allergic. Otherwise, they might spend all their lives thinking that one of those problems could develop.

These are very important services that can be extended to all the people through these programs. There are already 14 immunology research centers. Only 2 or 3 provinces don't have one. Are there three provinces without them? Two provinces do not have immunology research centers, because the 15 centers include one in the CENSA [no expansion given], and another in genetic engineering. The ones here are not included, and another is in the blood bank network of the capital, where new experiences are also being gained. There are 14 laboratories. This service will be available in all the provinces. Indeed, this program will be applied to all pregnant women. All of them will be subjected to the alphafeto protein test. All newborn children will be given the test for allergy and hypothyroidism. This will be done with the SUMA, in other

words, with the techniques developed at this center, in addition to the other examinations included in the program of prenatal genetics.

This means that we can already see the concrete, practical results at a modest cost. I am not going to say at an insignificant cost, because the work of the scientists, and investments in equipment, reagents and research were required. However, the cost has been truly modest and within the reach of the economy of a Third World country, within the reach of the economy of a developing country.

Well then, so as not to depend solely on my memory, here is a list of the possible uses of this equipment. You will see what a broad scope it has: rapid diagnosis of viral, bacteriological or fungus diseases in people, animals, and plants. In other words, the applications of this technique and this equipment transcend the activities related exclusively to human health, and extend to activities related to animal and plant health. The same technique. Routine clinical laboratory analyses. Prenatal diagnosis of congenital diseases—these were the first applications mentioned. Perinatal diagnosis of metabolic diseases. Identification of acute poisoning—I think that this equipment will even be useful to the police force, to help in criminology cases, involving not just health, but diagnosis. Identification of acute poisoning. Quantification of drugs in the blood—this is very important—for the appropriate treatment of cardiac insufficiency—so as to know what quantity of drugs is in the system, since it is not enough to give a drug or an injection—or to treat epilepsy, cancer, or other illnesses. Evaluation of the level of fetal development in animals and humans. Diagnosis of disease in meat used for industrial purposes. Quantification of hormones— this makes it possible to determine the best time for insemination, to cite one example. Evaluation of the level of immunological protection of the population from different microorganisms. Selection of blood for the production of therapeutic products against tetanus, rabies, measles, hepatitis, and many others. You know that many of these are attacked with gamma globulin, which comes from donated human blood. This equipment selects what donations are to be used in the treatment, because some have a large number of antibodies. Identification and selection of monoclonal antibodies. Identification and selection of mutant microorganisms. Detection and follow-up on contaminants in the biological and food industries.

Here is a paragraph that clearly expresses the possibilities of this technique, of this equipment: Nevertheless, it can be said that the immunology research techniques have barely been introduced into the field of contemporary practice. In the next 10 to 15 years, there should be a veritable methodological explosion which, in coordination with the procedures of genetic engineering and electronic devices, will flood many spheres of science and technology, and be responsible for a large part of diagnosis and evaluation activities in medicine and biology.

It is necessary to be able to produce the reagents and equipment oneself, because otherwise, only by spending millions would it possible for this technology to be introduced locally.

Comrade Fernandez Hierro spoke of the objectives of the center, etc. He did not speak of all the programs: the program of diagnosis carried out by the network of immunochemical laboratories and the immunology research center up to 31 August 1987; one program for the diagnosis of congenital malformations by alphaprotein; the program for the diagnosis of congenital hypothyroidism in the newborn. I already spoke about this. The program for the prevention of allergies, IGE [no expansion given]. I say this because one often runs across acronyms and unless one has a dictionary at hand, one doesn't know what they mean. This is the program for the prevention of allergies, IGE. The other program, the hypothyroidism program, has another name, but it is not stated here. It also has an acronym. The program for the development of immunochemical laboratories within the blood bank network. As we said, this is useful for producing blood by-products, because it identifies the antibodies in donated blood. Establishment of new diagnostic techniques with a high rate of reliability and low cost for the detection of various diseases, such as hepatitis, syphilis, and AIDS. Techniques for the detection of tetanus, meningococcus, and AIDS antibodies.

A study was carried out for the production of specific antitetanus gamma globulin in over 7,935 donated blood samples, with 1,792 being selected, because of their high content, which guarantees that they will be useful in the productive process, by virtue of their specific nature.

Another program that is under way and that will soon produce its first pilot is: the early diagnosis of leprosy. This seeks to detect leprotic antibodies in people who are apparently healthy. It is carried out through a technique that utilizes a synthetic leprotic antigen isolated in the School of Chemistry of the University of Havana. Testing will begin in the immunochemical laboratory in Guantanamo, because it is the province with the highest incidence of the disease. This work is being done in conjunction with the Institute of Tropical Medicine.

Diagnosis of the carcinoembryonic antigen. The objective is to monitor patients who have undergone surgery for cancer, for incipient tumors. An evaluation will be made of its possible use in the early diagnosis of certain tumors in people who are apparently healthy, but this is still only research. This work is being done with the Oncology Institute.

Diagnosis of drugs in the blood. The techniques for the diagnosis of drugs in the blood have been incorporated into the SUMA equipment, which led to as much as a tenfold reduction in the consumption of reagents per patient. There are plans to extend this to the provinces. It is possible to evaluate the concentration of antibiotics, and psychotropic, anti-epileptic, cardiotonic, and other drugs in the blood. The CENSA is working to incorporate [words indistinct] in the SUMA for the diagnosis of

disease in plants and animals in the future. Among those diseases are the following: bovine leucosis, bovine anaplasmosis, sugarcane mosaic, and others.

You can see how the field of application of these techniques and this equipment is broadened. Now the world is in terror of the plague of AIDS, we could say the AIDS epidemic, that is going around the world. Well, this equipment has great importance in the struggle against AIDS, because it is an equipment that does 96 simultaneous analyses. It does the analyses 2 at a time; there are 48 samples. It analyzes them twice, to make sure that there is not the slightest possibility of error. In other words, it is ideal for large-scale examination of the blood. For this reason, it will be sent to all the blood banks. Today, we do these examinations with the other techniques, because we do not have enough SUMAs. We spend a lot on reagents; those reagents are expensive. The reagents for an AIDS test range from a little over $1.00 to $5.00 for each test. If a million tests are given, then it costs millions of dollars. They had to be imported, but no longer.

Thanks to the workers of the Civil Defense Laboratory, in cooperation with other institutions, we now have a Cuban reagent, which is very good and very efficient for the analysis of AIDS, but large amounts of it are expended by the old equipment. When we use those reagents with the SUMA, we will be able to do 10 million tests with the same amount of reagents used today to do 500,000 or 600,000 tests. We would achieve a 15- or 20-fold reduction in the amount of reagents to be used. Therefore, we will be in a position to test the entire population if we should wish. So far, the tests are given to high- risk cases, and all blood donations are tested throughout the country. Now, our society will be in a position to test the entire society, all the people, at a minimal cost.

In this matter of AIDS, something should be said. In over a million tests, which include risk cases and blood donations, we have detected 147 carriers. This already tells us something about AIDS. With 147 cases, we can say statistically that here are no more than a few hundred carriers. It is a very incipient situation, which has been detected and combatted in the nick of time. Primarily, the analysis of blood donations, that is, those cases that test positive, in addition to the high risk cases—because of relations with foreigners or because they have traveled—can allow us to almost mathematically state how many carriers there are in the country. It is a truly privileged situation. It is not the case of the United States, which has over 2 million carriers. It is not the case of France, which has over 200,000 carriers. When there are that many carriers, it is not possible to take the measures that we have taken. Some people who have nothing to do or say have criticized our measures, the necessary, indispensable measures of isolation that we have taken. These measures seek the protection, not only of the healthy population, but also of the sick people, because it is known that AIDS becomes an illness at particular times of weakness, malnutrition, etc., and until an effective medication is discovered that can cure the illness radically, preventive medical treatment is the basic weapon to preserve the life of a person who has contracted the AIDS virus. That is what our country is doing by providing medical attention and nutrition for the isolated cases.

However, it is possible to isolate 147 cases, or 150, or 300. A few hundred cases can be isolated. When the phenomenon becomes widespread, isolation becomes impossible. Isolation is impossible. Who can isolate 2.5 million people? Who can isolate 50,000, 40,000, or 100,000 people? There would be no installations, no possibilities, nothing.

I think the method we are using is the most effective and the most humane. Of course, we are in a privileged position because the disease is quite incipient. Those who cannot do this, simply because the disease has become widespread, criticize us. A WHO official who was here praised what we are doing. I recently read a news dispatch that criticized this. The United States cannot do what we are doing. France and most of the European countries cannot do what we are doing. Some Latin American countries already have 40,000 or 50,000 carriers. They do not even have the means to identify the carriers. We have all the resources, even to carry out a mass testing of all the people. And fortunately, the number of carriers is so small that we can take measures of this kind, which provide an almost total guarantee. If this disease is not transmitted by blood donors, if it is not transmitted by the carriers, we can give an almost total guarantee, and we can wait as long as necessary until a medication or a vaccine is discovered, although we are nevertheless working on this.

Now, what will happen in this matter? No one knows. A few days ago, I read a dispatch about some laboratories, I do not know if they were in the United States or elsewhere, which stated that they had discovered that the AIDS virus is even more mutative than that of the flu. In fact, there was a statement to the effct that the AIDS virus was 10 times more mutative than that of the flu, and if the AIDS virus is more mutative than that of the flu, just consider how much effort has gone into seeking a vaccine for the flu. In other words, this complicates the situation. No one knows when or where the famous vaccine, or the therapeutical medicine to contain or cure the disease will appear. We have hopes that it will appear. Many thousands of scientists are working on this. Even in our country we are working in that direction. However, in the meantime, what better thing can we do than what we are doing? Protecting the carriers, and protecting the healthy population. Could there be a more humane measure than that?

In the next few days, there will be a wide discussion at the world level on television. I believe that there is a world conference, and our country will be represented there. Actually, we have the best program for our circumstances. In addition, it is known that in our country, there is no prostitution, which has been one of the

focuses of the multiplication of AIDS in the heterosexual population. Well, if we had had brothels as we did in the past, I do not know what would have happened in Cuba. A fraternal neighboring country has some 50,000, not to mention Haiti; everyone knows how many it has. It is a terrible situation. We are in the privileged position of having discovered the virus in time, and of having taken truly effective measures. As soon as this center produces the first few dozen pieces of equipment, they will be sent to the blood banks. We will be in a position, if necessary, to carry out a total mass test, and thus know exactly who the carriers are. Therefore, we are truly in a privileged position. That is how we could describe our situation with regard to AIDS: a privileged position. Now, let those who cannot do what we are doing refrain from envying us. Let them respect what we are doing. We are doing the most humane and scientific thing that can be done, and the most useful thing, both for the patient and for the entire healthy population.

I see here the faces of many known and beloved comrades who are working in the fields of science. I also see the faces of comrades who work in other research centers; the comrades who work at the Tropical Medicine Institute and, I believe that the comrades who are responsible for developing vaccines are also here. Yesterday I mentioned that these comrades have worked hard to come up with a vaccine against meningococcal meningitis and the results are very promising. We will be receiving the final results of the tests in the next few months, and we are ready to begin the mass production of this vaccine. We are not going to wait for the new vaccine factory to be completed because it will not be ready until 1989. We expect to have the final results of the tests by the end of the year, and if the tests prove positive, then we will be able to produce millions of units of the vaccine to fight that terrible disease. This disease not only affects approximately 1,000 people each year and kills approximately 200 people, mostly children, but it also represents a threat; it is the sword of Damocles that hangs over the heads of all the people. This vaccine will help us protect our people and it will, undoubtedly, be useful for other countries. We are waiting for the results of the tests but we are also ready to begin production. It has been an excellent and very promising piece of work. However, the last word will be said after the statistics are received. This will be in 4 months—September, October, November—in 3 or 4 months we will have much more information. We are not far away from the day when we will be able to say that we are ready to begin the production of the vaccine against meningococcal meningitis.

However, many things can happen. Only recently we read an international dispatch reporting that, for the first time in the world, mass testing of a vaccine against Type B meningococcal meningitis was being done in Iquitos, Chile [as heard]. We are talking about the Type B meningococcal meningitis, because vaccines for the control of Type A and Type C meningitis have already been developed. However, there is no vaccine against Type B meningococcal meningitis. But those people are just now beginning to test their vaccine and we have already tested our vaccine on tens of thousands of people. A whole province has already been vaccinated against meningococcal meningitis. I am talking about Ciego de Avila Province where everyone, within a specific age limit, has been vaccinated against this disease; 162,000 persons have already been vaccinated. This can no longer be described as comparative testing. We are no longer comparing results between a user and a non-user because everyone has been vaccinated. In some cases two doses of the vaccine have been given. We are speaking of a whole province, yet we read about this type of testing being done for the first time ever.

However, a very reliable U.S. magazine is now carrying an article on the testing we have been doing for many months. The same magazine carries an article on the SUMA—the reporter who visited our country must have liked the SUMA. A U.S. magazine is carrying articles on the tests we are doing and on our SUMA equipment. This will protect us from another person who may try to announce that he invented the SUMA somewhere else—in Honolulu, Los Angeles or any such place. That is the way things are; they even try to steal the humble scientific achievements of our people. [Passage indistinct] this center is still under construction but they are already producing animals—and other centers are present here today. Comrades from our oncology and other science centers are also present here today. I feel that these comrades, who are qualified to understand what we are talking about today—and I hope that our people will also be able to understand all this—will consider the work done here as an important achievement and step forward.

This is a research center; therefore, many research groups will be found working here. For example, the genetic engineering group and the CENIC [National Scientific Research Center] can be found here. This group, and other outstanding groups of researchers, came from the CENIC. In this area we also find the small center where we first started to develop our insemination process. Today we are inaugurating this center. Our School of Biology will be built near here. Currently, the School of Biology is located in the old School of Medicine building at the Calixto Garcia. We realized that it would be best to put the School of Medicine back where it had been—those installations were built to house a School of Medicine and not a School of Biology—and build the new School of Biology here where the CENIC, genetic engineering laboratory, and immunoassay laboratory, are located. I mentioned earlier that we are already building the new installations for the Institute of Cuban Tropical Medicine. Not far from here we are also building a research center that will be used by our pharmaceutical industry. Several research centers; some of our best hospitals; the Victoria de Giron School of Medicine; the Frank Pais Hospital, currently being expanded and soon to be a great hospital; the CIME [Metallurgical Research Center]; an obstetrics hospital; the Carlos Finlay Hospital, also being expanded; the Pando Ferrer Ophthalmology Center; the new pediatric

hospital that is being built near the obelisk; are all located in this area. We are also building an avenue that will link the obelisk with the (?Mediodia) freeway and we have areas set aside to build between 2,000 and 3,000 homes for the scientific-technical community that will be working in this area. Specific, solid, and promising steps are being taken in this field. We are doing this with seriousness, with a large number of experienced cadres, and with a larger number of youths who are dedicated to their work and who are very capable. From all that I have heard here today, I gather that we can all participate in this scientific-technical task and that we do not have to be a superindustrialized country in order to do this kind of work. It also proves that at times we can occupy first place in this field.

I feel that very promising work is being done in the fields of medicine and research. Our centers have become models of organization, productivity, and efficiency. With less than 100 workers, with approximately 90 workers, this center will produce millions of pesos. A single piece of equipment you see here cannot be bought for less than 130,000 or 140,000 pesos—excuse me, I meant to say dollars—especially today because of the devaluation of the dollar. We expect to produce at least 100 such machines a year. This center will produce millions of dollars in reagents. Most important, research work will be done at this center and all the immunochemistry laboratories in this country will be run from this center; it will be the general staff of the scientific-technical directorate—not the administrative directorate but the scientific-technical directorate. The programs for the training of personnel will be drafted here. The directorate will be set up here. How many men are currently working here? One. Later we will have two men working here. They will use computers to receive all the information being provided by the various laboratories.

Here, as at the genetic engineering and biology centers, we practice the idea of multi-assignment and irregular work schedule. This is a new idea and these comrades work 13 and 14 hours a day. They do not do this everyday, they only do it when it is necessary. We are not asking for a specific number of work hours, what we ask for is dedication. A center like this one can send a scientist home. He does not have to be at the center; he can go home if he has a thesis to present, a course he wishes to attend, or if he has to study. We want something more than a formal work schedule; we want men who are dedicated to their work. We want a communist society work system.

I know the kind of workers that we have at these centers. It is a real pleasure to come here and visit them. We have young and qualified scientists working at this center. The workers receive excellent attention. They get very good food and enjoy all the comforts. Their wages are a bit higher because of what they do. However, no amount of money is enough to compensate them for the kind of work they do. There are many scientists who spend the night at the genetic engineering laboratory—they are doing the work previously done at the biology laboratory—because they live too far away to go home. They sleep on a cot in order to be at work very early. They have breakfast, lunch, and dinner, at the center. I have visited the workers at this center on various occasions and have always found them in a good mood.

What is most interesting is the fact that the young people want to work at the center. Only recently several new groups of young people came to work here. When I met with them I said: Well, you are now members of the religious order of science. I also told them that place could be compared to something like a convent with the difference that marriage is not banned here. I have observed determination on their faces when they come to work at this center. However, it will not always be this way. We are not looking for a formal work schedule system, we are looking for workers with dedication. They will not have to be at the center all the time; they will be able to stay at home and work from their home. They will soon be living near here. At home they will have their families. There are several married couples who are scientists. A scientific-medical community is going to be created here. These centers have become the vanguards of a new work style. I feel that this is praiseworthy. All the new centers are developing around this system. We no longer have to preach this new system.

Cenpalap, the Center for the Production of an Animal Free of Parasites [paratogenos], was created under this new system. The work done at this center will be of great value for our hospitals and our research in general. These centers have become the perfect example of what a center should be, and the workers have become excellent examples of dedication and work spirit. They are becoming an example for all of our people.

It is only fair to say that this center has received help from many sectors. The list may be a little long, but it is my duty to mention the names of the enterprises and institutions that have worked closely in the construction of this center and have help in the work done here. Here I have the list of the enterprises and institutions closely involved in the production of the SUMA equipment, reagents, and in the drafting of new diagnostic techniques.

Some of the enterprises are: Copestel [expansion unknown]; the military and industrial enterprises; the MINAZ [Ministry of the Sugar Industry] industrial automation enterprises—a tiny MINAZ plant in Villa Clara has designed the plates on which the electronic components are placed; the Ministry of the Fishing Industry shipyards; the Reinaldo Gutierrez Medical Supply Enterprise; the Carlos J. Finlay Biological Products Enterprise; and the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture's Institute of Veterinary Medicine.

Some of the institutions are: the Cuban Institute of Endocrinology; the Cuban Institute of Tropical Medicine; the Civil Defense Laboratory; the Institute of Oncology and Radiobiology; the Genetic Engineering

and Biotechnology Center; the Animal Laboratory Center; the National Biochemical Products Center; the School of Chemistry of the University of Havana; the Ministry of Agriculture's animal health center; the Clinical Genetics Reference Center; the blood by-product plant; and the Provincial Blood Bank.

Some of the supply enterprises are: the Council of State's Servicec [expansion unknown]; the CEATM [State Committee for Material and Technical Supply]; the Ministry of Public Health's MEDICUBA [Cuban Enterprise for the Import of Medical Products]; and the MINCEX' [Ministry of Foreign Trade] CUBAEQUIPO [expansion unknown].

No institution advances without the help of another institution. This is why we must struggle against such negative tendencies as working separately. We must seek a very tight cooperation among the institutions. This will allow us to advance quickly. This center is an example of this. This center has received help from many other institutions. It is an example of the way we must work in order to advance in socialism.

The construction of this center must also be an example for everyone. The construction of the Genetic Engineering Center gave us many headaches. When we inaugurated the Genetic Engineering Center we mentioned that 95 percent of the center—the exact percentage is not known—had been completed. Much hard work had to be done following the inauguration. The P-3 and P-4 laboratories had not been finished. The pilot plant had not been completed. The P-3 and P-4 laboratories—where the animals are kept—had not been completed, and the installation of the water tanks and filters gave us many headaches. There were many things to be done that forced us to work very hard after the center had been inaugurated.

This year, today, approximately 15 or 18 months after its inauguration, we can say that the center has been completed. It was a lesson for us to learn from. As a result of this experience we decided that it was necessary for us to study the organization of our construction enterprises, the mistakes made and decide what mistakes should not be repeated, the phenomenon of the last minute race to complete the work, etcetera. This is why we decided that the construction of this center called for hard work from the very first day. We decided that it was necessary to demand good quality, seriousness, and hard work from the day the construction work began. I am not trying to say that the construction of the Genetic Engineering Center was lacking in good quality. It is of good quality, but much of the construction was still lacking its final touches. The Genetic Engineering Center could not be used as an example of what construction and building should be.

Since that time, much progress has been made. Measures were taken to improve the system. The same crew that built the Genetic Engineering Center built this center. The same brigade, I meant to say that it was the same enterprise that built this center; however, this time they formed their construction brigades. The work was done by the No 6 Architectural and Construction Enterprise and Brigade No 3. The comrade architect who spoke here today was responsible for Brigade No 3—the head of the brigade is an architect. This architect not only knows how to build but he can also speak. In very clear and simple words he expressed his appreciation to all the people of the brigade who helped in the construction of this center and also expressed pride in the completion of this work. He added that his plans are to continue working in this manner.

Yesterday I spoke of the last minute race to complete construction and said that we had to put an end to this. This must be done with a plan and knowing that hard work must begin the day that construction begins. If there is a 3- year deadline and nothing is done during the first 2 years, then one must rush to do it all in a year. We have set a very strict deadline for the completion of these [not further explained] hospitals, and we will not agree to an extention of the set deadline. Why? Building a hospital is a serious matter. When a hospital is being expanded, loud noises are heard, much dust is created, and a certain degree of disorganization occurs. We have suffered watching the expansion work being done at the Frank Pais Hospital. The expansion work began almost 10 years ago and it looked like we would have to wait 20 more years to see it completed. We know that the work will not be completed by the end of 1987. The expansion work at the other hospitals should be completed by early 1988. The work that was not done in years at the Frank Pais Hospital is being done in a few months. Much work is being done and it is expected that the work will be completed on the estimated date. An industry is being built at the Frank Pais Hospital; the orthopedic industry. This time, next year, that hospital should be in operation, and not a single straw, speck of dust, or grain of sand will be seen in the area.

Hospitals should be built as quickly as possible. We are currently expanding the Albarran Hospital. Gerardo, that is your name is it not? [unidentified man heard saying Lazaro] Lazaro. Yes, Lazaro. Lazaro heads the brigade that is working at the Albarran Hospital. They have quite a task ahead. The current capacity of the Albarran Hospital is being doubled. This hospital currently has a 350-bed capacity. How many beds does the hospital have? No one here knows. I know that is is going to have a 750-bed capacity. [unidentified man heard saying "750 beds"] Seven hundred and fifty and it currently has [unidentified man heard saying "326 beds"] 326 beds. This hospital also houses the Institute of Nephrology. The deadline for the expansion is December 1988, and they are doing a fine job. We are not worried about a deadline not being met.

When the expansion work at the Albarran Hospital began, hundreds of piles had to be built. Can you imagine what it was like at the hospital with all the hammering that was necessary to put those piles in their place? The hospital is built on low land and a very solid

foundation is necessary. A deadline was set. Thinking about the patients, and how the noise affects the patients, a deadline was set. Construction noises tend to bother the patients; therefore, one must make sure that the construction work is done as fast as possible and not in a 5-or 10-year period.

The Frank Pais Hospital is another hospital that is undergoing expansion work. The hospital capacity will be three times its current capacity. Nine floors are being added to the hospital. It is a big job. I visited the construction site this morning because yesterday I said that they would be given a deadline to complete the work. I visited the site and talked to the people responsible for the construction work and the construction brigade leader. I asked about the work they have already completed; the number of columns they had to build—by the way, I must correct myself because I said that more than 800 columns had to be built and this is not true; they had to build less than 800 columns, approximately 750 columns—and learned that they have 30 more columns to go. They had five Benotto digging machines there; now they have four. By the end of the month they should have completed the digging. In some areas they are already working on the foundation and several columns are ready. We also met with the planning group and have asked that the plans be made before the construction work begins rather than the other way around. I have been told that if we supply the work forces and the construction material—the material must be purchased ahead of time because some of the material must be imported and if we need this material in September then we cannot wait until February to purchase it—the work will be completed within the deadline set. We also talked about the equipment they need. The air conditioning system is being built here. We are buying the material, but the compressors are being built here. The elevators are also being built here. This means that we are saving much of the money spent on importing this equipment because our mechanical industry is building all those systems. If we cannot get all the power plants we need from the socialist countries, then we will have to get them from the capitalist countries. However, we are doing all this by reducing, to a minimum, all purchases done in convertible currency.

We know the kind of problems that can bring construction work to a halt. There are times when a little problem can stop the work. At the School of Nursing they are having some problems because the white corner tiles had some small quality defects and this is holding the work up. They are also having some problems getting the aluminum casings for the windows. They are having problems getting the aluminum casings because the company is behind in its production. This aluminun company was damaged recently as the result of an explosion. The workers at the aluminum company worked hard to repair the oven and a second assembly line is almost ready. By the end of the year we will be producing twice as many window casings, and we are making plans to set up a third assembly line because we know that problems will always be encountered. We are going to begin a study of each of the problems that can be encountered at the window casing company and we will appoint a man who will be responsible for repairs. I feel that all works must be planned and completed within a deadline, especially if we are talking about a hospital. We are not talking about whims. We are talking about a hospital with hundreds of patients. The noise and dust always bothers the patients. It is true that the construction workers are not inside the hospital, but the construction site is near the hospital and it is necessary to set strict deadlines. I know that the deadlines will be met unless some disaster occurs.

We know what this kind of work entails. We have the equipment and the experienced workers. We have the necessary workers to ensure the completion of the work. A study was made to determine how many bricklayers were needed in each brigade, what each bricklayer needs, and the days that the bricklayer must work. The brigades are working with a renewed spirit and this must be firmly defended. We cannot accept the past system that allowed for 6-or 12-month delays in the completion of the work. In the past the waiting periods were never ending. This is all being corrected. Today we build with a new spirit and new principles. Today we work with different goals; productivity, quality, and speed. We must add that this center's construction quality is very good. It is really a pleasure to come here. I invite everyone who wishes to have a nice time to come here and visit the center. You will be impressed by the building and the equipment, but above all you will be greatly impressed with the workers at this center. There is not a single extra worker at this center.

This center is not like other centers where you walk into the lobby and find a crowd of people standing around. In this lobby you never see people. The other day I visited the center and saw a young lady sitting on a bench in the lobby. I thought this strange. I approached her and asked her if she was looking for a job or if she was visiting the center. I asked: Are you visiting the center? I had the feeling that she was a visitor because she could not be a worker. Her answer was that she had come with her boyfriend who is an engineer and who was going to work at the center. She added that he had come to the center on that day to register. Fine. I asked her what she was studying and she answered that she was studying to be an architect. I told her that it was a pity that we did not need architects at this center, but added that we do need architects in other areas. That young lady was sitting in the lobby waiting for her boyfriend; otherwise, you would have seen no one in the lobby.

When lunchtime comes around the production workers do their job in the dining room. It is really an excellent dining room, we could describe it as a small restaurant. The scientists clean their laboratories. There is a family environment at the center and everyone knows what he must do. As a result of this, only the number of persons needed to operate the center, are employed here. When the center's housing project begins,instead of planning homes for 300 people, we will only plan homes for 80,

90, or 95 families at the most. This center has a maximum payroll of 95 employees. For the time being, I do not think that the center will hire the maximum number of employees; therefore, as you can see, we have enough space to expand if this should become necessary.

Now we have to start studying the various markets. We must study the markets available for reagents; whether we have fully developed our production process; whether we dominate the production technique; the kind of a market available for this product; and the possibilities and convenience of an industry for the production of reagents. I know that at the center they are already working on 41 different types of reagents, and we must study every aspect of this industry—well semi-industry, this is a research center but it is also an industry—and reach our own conclusions. There are many possibilities in this field.

However, for the time being, this center's payroll will remain as is. With a reduced number of employees it is much easier to handle the needs of the center. With rationalization and productivity we can offer the workers at the center much better wages, food, and living conditions.

Well, we were speaking of the final phase. We were talking about the builders and I feel that the builders, the ECOI [Industrial Projects Construction Enterprise] 6, Brigade No 3, City of Havana Construction Directorate and the Ministry of Construction must be congratulated for their good work. At times I have criticized them, but I also praise them when they deserve praise. On this occasion they must be congratulated. I think that we will make much progress if we continue to work with this idea in mind.

Yesterday I also praised the excellent work done at the Julio Trigo Hospital. The hospitals that we are now expanding will be our test by fire. The pediatric hospital will not be the most difficult to expand. It is a big project, but not as big as the Albarran and Miguel Enriquez projects. Those two hospitals will be doubling their current capacity.

However, those are not the only hospitals we are expanding. We are expanding several other hospitals, but these are the most important. In a 3-year period Havana will have 5,000 additional hospital beds. This does not include the number of beds available in the three new hospitals we will begin to build in 1989. In 1989 we will begin to build the new Hospital del Oeste. It will be built near here and will be part of this science complex. I call this hospital the Ameijeiras of the west. It will have 900 beds. In the east we will be building the Ameijeiras del Este and in addition, we will be building the pediatric hospital in the eastern sector of the city. This hospital will be very much like the one we are building in Marianao.

However, we are not only building and expanding hospitals. We are also building new day care centers and schools that our capital city needs; we are building more homes, and appointing family doctors. The family doctor will be very involved in the work being done at these centers. He will be responsible for educating the people, preventing early pregnancies, and promoting physical education. These are some of the things that we are working on and we consider them very important tasks. We are doing this despite our economic difficulties. We are doing all this at a time when our convertible currency availability is limited. However, all this has led us to find very good solutions to our problems.

In the past we bought the elevators and air conditioning systems we needed. Today we are building our own elevators and air conditioning systems here. Much can be learned from experiencing and overcoming difficult times—lean times. Our difficult moments have taught us to put what we have to better use and make greater efforts. We can say that we made the most progress during the year of the apocalypse. It was during the year of the apocalypse that we made our most important decisions. We did not measure our progress in numbers or growth. One can invest billions in a construction, but if you do not complete it, you have nothing. You have thrown your money away. You can begin to build a road but if it takes you 30 years to finish it, you are throwing money away. If you begin to build a hospital and it takes you 15 years to complete it, then you are throwing money away. We are building and completing and we are not measuring our work in money [valores]. In the past a mechanical industry was measured for what it was worth and not what it was producing. The industry was scheduled to produce 100 assorted products, but only produced 35. The other 65 products were never produced. That is the kind of mistakes made in the past, but today we are seriously working to resolve them. We are resolving important problems and we are finding new solutions to old problems.

I feel that we have earned the right not to rest on our laurels, but to continue along this same path with more enthusiasm. This is a promising path. We have every right to feel optimistic. Excellent efforts are being made and excellent results are being achieved. We have done this despite our economic and weather problems. We are not getting enough rain; someone in Heaven has declared himself on strike against us. [laughter] However, despite the critical water situation in our capital city, we are building a new aqueduct. This new aqueduct will not resolve all our problems, and unless we get much rain in the next 2 months, we will be experiencing a water shortage. But what would the situation be like without this new aqueduct? This new aqueduct can produce 70 or 80 million cubic meters of water; however, the situation will continue to be a difficult one. We are experiencing this same situation throughout the country. The people are trying to save water. We are saving some water in our dams, but we are facing problems caused by nature and problems that are the result of our mistakes.

However, we have always been firm when confronting the hostile and terrible threats of imperialism; we are still here and we are stronger, more organized, and better

prepared than ever. We were also strong when we felt the apocalypse was near; we were strong and firm when they tried to destroy our revolution. We stood up firm and said: we will see if they can destroy the revolution; we will see if this is possible. I wonder how they would go about killing millions of Cubans with a rifle, mine, or grenade, if they cannot handle 10 or 12,000 Cubans. How would they do it? We are prepared to confront any problem and I think that our people's courage and firmness, and their determination to defend their homeland and revolution at all cost, has given us this possibility of creating and producing. We are not a warmongering people, we do not want war. We prefer to work, create, and make progress, but to be able to do all this, we need independence and peace. I think that we have also earned our right to peace and if we continue along this path, and I am sure we will, we will make much progress.

Fatherland or death, we will win. [applause]

OTHER COUNTRIES

Haiti

Two Injured in 20 Sep Shooting

FL212104 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Excerpts] There was much shooting yesterday afternoon at around 1400 in Raboteau, a poor section of town in Gonaives. Residents of Raboteau said they had not heard bursts of fire like that for the past 3 days.

When asked about the 17 September incident, where civilians reportedly stoned the military, the inhabitants of Raboteau said it wasn't true—that nothing like that had happened.

Two persons were wounded in connection with the gunfire: 40-year-old (Yolande Charles)was wounded in the left hand, and 45-year-old (Mondesir Limage) had four toes in his left foot severed by a bullet. Both reportedly live close to the new military post in Raboteau.

Many arrests were made in the area on Friday, 18 September. It has been reported that 70 of the 104 people arrested were released last Saturday.

According to a member of the Toussaint Louverture Barracks in Gonaives, the other 34, six of whom are women, are being held while an investigation is conducted. [passage omitted]

Some people in Gonaives have said that they must put up with whatever happens, in order to be able to hold elections next November. According to these people,the population of Gonaives wants elections and only through elections will they succeed in getting rid of the National Government Council. Some people in Gonaives say that the military in Raboteau and Jubilee are from the Dessalines Barracks [in Port-au-Prince] and from the barracks in Saint-Marc, and it is they who are frightening people in Gonaives. They also said that members of the Haitian Armed Forces are in the poor sections of Gonaives every evening.

CEP Members Negotiate Prisoner Release

FL212121 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Excerpts] A communique from the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] states that last Friday, 18 September, CEP members Dr Charles Poisset Romain and Mr Napoleon Eugene held an important meeting at the bishopric of Gonaives. The meeting was attended by representatives of all sectors of the population of Gonaives and falls within the framework of the CEP's tour of the provinces to set up the departmental electoral offices [BED]. [passage omitted]

Dr Poisset Romain and Mr Eugene had an emergency meeting at the barracks in Gonaives with the commanding officer of the military district and with representatives of several different sectors of the population for the purpose of, together, seeking a solution to the problem of the arrest and imprisonment of several groups of 50 people. Another meeting—this time with the commanding officer of the military department—proved necessary and was also held. The purpose of the second meeting was to obtain the unconditional release of 70 prisoners, to the great satisfaction of a crowd which was standing by not too far from the barracks and demanding the release of these people. [passage omitted]

KID Willing To Support CEP on Elections

FL180321 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1100 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Late yesterday afternoon, the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] met with a delegation from the Confederation for Democratic Unity [KID] at CEP headquarters on Rue Pavee to discuss the organization of the coming elections. [passage omitted]

For the CEP, dishonest elections with little participation by the electorate would mean—purely and simply—the annulment of such elections. The KID maintained, at this meeting, that if the people do not want elections held, it is because the people do not yet see any candidates. But the CEP's Carlo Dupiton was of the opinion that failure to vote constitutes a betrayal of the people. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, the KID is willing to support the CEP if all the conditions necessary for the proper holding of elections are met; but it also said that it would support the CEP if, for one reason or another, the CEP were to cancel or postpone the coming elections in Haiti.

Costa Rica

Arias, FMLN-FDR Leaders Hold Meeting

PA151325 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] Guillermo Ungo has said the talks for resuming a dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and guerrilla groups have progressed, but nothing specific will be achieved before the end of the month. Salvadoran guerrilla leaders Guillermo Ungo, Ruben Zamora, Mario Lopez, and Salvador Samayoa talked with President Oscar Arias and Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal for more than 4 hours at the Presidential Palace. Ungo said if an agreement is reached in the next few hours or days the dialogue could be held later this month. He definitely ruled out a government-guerrilla meeting on 15 September.

President Oscar Arias feels the Salvadoran guerrillas and Napoleon Duarte's government are willing to participate in a dialogue. Arias said he talked twice with the Salvadoran president this afternoon. Arias felt Duarte is willing to reach an agreement on a dialogue to achieve the peace everyone wants so much. Arias said that today's 4-hour meeting was an important step, but he admitted there is a long road ahead.

The Costa Rican Government will do everything it can to resume a dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas, according to President Arias, who added that he and Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal are willing to act as mediators. However, they are not the only ones acting as mediators, Arias said, because Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas has been successfully playing the same role for many years. Nevertheless, Costa Rica wants to make a small contribution so the dialogue will be held and the Salvadoran people will have peace, Arias added.

The differences between the Salvadoran guerrillas and government over the dialogue have not been revealed so the Costa Rican Government's mediation will not be jeorpardized. Guillermo Ungo said President Oscar Arias' and Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal's diplomatic and political efforts might bring results. Ungo thinks any disclosure about the negotiations could cause a problem and preclude any solution. He simply said progress has been made during the two meetings with President Arias. Referring to the place or country where the dialogue might take place, Ungo said this has not been decided yet. Even though the guerrilla leaders believe this point is not a problem, Ungo added that the issue of the meeting's venue has not been settled yet. The Salvadoran Government is expected to issue a communique stating its position on the points the guerrilla leaders proposed through President Arias Sanchez, even though there are no plans for a new meeting with the guerrillas.

Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said: The conversations held so far indicate that specific agreements on the dialogue could be reached this week. He insisted that there is goodwill and that much progress has been made. Nevertheless, Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto refused to expand on what President Oscar Arias and guerrilla leader Guillermo Ungo had said.

Referring to Nicaragua's case, Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto said progress has been made regarding a dialogue between rebel groups and the Sandinists. We have held talks with Foreign Minister Miguel D'escoto, Madrigal Nieto said, and we will meet again on 17 September. I believe positive results will be achieved, he said. Madrigal Nieto trusts positive results will be achieved during the meeting he will hold in Managua this week with his Nicaraguan counterpart Miguel D'Escoto. At this meeting Madrigal Nieto will propose Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo mediate between the Sandinists and the rebels.

Nicaraguan Resistance Releasing 80 POWs

PA181848 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Sep 87

[Text] The Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] has asked the Costa Rican Government, through Public Security Minister Hernan Garron, to receive 80 prisoners of war captured inside Nicaraguan territory following clashes between the EPS and the counterrevolutionaries.

The letter handed today to the minister says the RN is adhering to established procedures for achieving a firm and lasting peace in Central America.

Although the Sandinist regime has not yet provided the promised amnesty, the RN is taking this step as one more benevolent example of its unending desire to achieve as soon as possible the peace and democracy Nicaragua wants so much, the letter adds.

The letter, which the RN handed to Minister Garron, who in turn revealed its contents at a news conference, says the prisoners of war, who will be handed over tomorrow morning to the Costa Rican Government, will be able to choose one of three options: They may return to Nicaragua, stay in Costa Rica as political refugees, or go to any other Central American country.

The prisoners of war will arrive between 0900 to 1000 at Llano Grande Airport in Liberia, Minister Hernan Garron said. Present at the news conference were Alfredo Cesar, Alfonso Robelo, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, and Azucena Ferrey, who signed the letter.

El Salvador

Duarte Denies Receiving Letter From Rebels

PA191235 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Sep 87

[Report by Joel Burgos]

[Text] President Jose Napoleon Duarte today denied that he had received a letter in which the FDR-FMLN stated their new position on the Esquipulas II peace

agreement. Duarte want to the Legislative Assembly today and requested authorization to attend a meeting of Latin American Christian Democratic presidents in Puerto Rico on 23 September. He said he had no information on the latest rebel position, which apparently could create an appropriate atmosphere for a meeting between the two parties.

[Begin Duarte recording] I talked with President Arias this morning, and I told him I could not give my views because I had not received the letter. I have yet to receive the letter. [end recording]

Rebel leaders accuse the government of demanding that they must publicly accept the Esquipulas II agreement and join the democratic process as conditions for a dialogue.

[Begin Duarte recording] They must first answer the two simple questions I have asked them. First, do they accept the peace plan? If they accept the peace plan, it means ending the conflict and hostilities so we can enter the peace process. Consequently, they must fully accept the peace plan without conditions or little tricks that fill the people with unwarranted hope. If they want to talk about peace, then we will talk about peace, and I will be willing to meet with them as soon as possible.

If they adopt attitudes like they did the other day, when Shafik Handal said in Cuba that they do not accept the peace plan, or if they issue statements such as the document you are familiar with—the five commanders' document in which they say they reject the peace plan—then it is not possible to talk about peace, because they want to talk about war. I do not want to talk about war; I want to talk about peace. [end recording]

The Catholic Church and other organizations expected a meeting between the government and the guerrilla leaders either late this month or early next month. It seems, however, this will not be possible. We will have to wait until we learn about the rebel fronts' new position.

Likewise, the government has no information about the letter sent to the Costa Rican president in which the rebels reportedly explain their position on the Esquipulas II plan, according to the minister of culture and communications. The rebel fronts sent a letter to Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez—not to Duarte—stating their position on the peace plan signed in Guatemala, Communications and Culture Minister Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes said today. Rey Prendes said if the rebels accept the Esquipulas II plan, it means they approve of the points included in the document:

[Begin Prendes recording] I understand they apparently have stated their acceptance. The president and I will meet later on to prepare the answer to any communique, either directly from the FMLN-FDR to the president or through President Arias. I have no information about the latest developments. [end recording]

Handal Comments on Meeting With Arias

PA200306 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 18 Sep 87

[Statement by Commander Shafik Jorge Handal "on behalf of the FMLN General Command;" date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] On 14 September a second meeting was held in San Jose between a high-level FMLN-FDR delegation and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and his foreign minister, Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto. The meeting was devoted to seeking ways to resume dialogue.

On that occasion, President Arias asked the FMLN-FDR to send him a letter outlining our constructive position regarding the Esquipulas II agreement, the contents of which would then be conveyed to Napoleon Duarte, and which would thus remove the obstacles to the resumption of dialogue between our fronts and the Salvadoran Government.

We, the FMLN and FDR, have contended that the dialogue must be held without preconditions. A similar view has been expressed by [words indistinct] political parties, labor organizations, and by many other sectors which, as a whole, represent the nation's majority opinion.

To show flexibility and a willingness to cooperate with President Arias' generous effort to contribute to the dialogue in our country, we agreed to immediately draft and deliver to him the letter he requested. As I already have said, it is addressed to him.

I will not read the text of the letter because we expressly agreed not to do so until the Duarte administration announces its final decision in this regard.

I do want to state, however, for the information of the Salvadoran people and the international public, that the FMLN-FDR's letter expressed very clear support for the constructive efforts on the part of the Guatemala agreement to seek peace.

We said that we are willing to orient our peace efforts within the framework of Esquipulas II and that whatever differences we might have with the government regarding the application of those agreements—given the specific conditions of our country—are subjects to be discussed during the dialogue itself.

The letter was signed by the delegations of our two fronts, which—as is well known—were comprised of Dr Guillermo Ungo and Dr Ruben Zamora, FDR president and vice president, respectively; and Commander Mario Lopez and Salvador Samayoa, who represent the FMLN. In other words, this was a very high-level delegation, fully supported by both fronts. Speaking for the FMLN, I feel it is timely to reiterate, in the name of the General Command, our total support of this letter. The letter was immediately passed on to President Duarte. In order to simplify matters, it had been agreed to not publicize the letter until we had received Duarte's answer, as I have explained.

However, in the last few days, Napoleon Duarte and Foreign Minister Acevedo have pointedly and publicly reiterated that they have not received any letter from President Arias. We have decided to make this public statement to put things in perspective and to reveal to our people and to the international public the real truth of the matter, so no one will be taken by surprise or misinformed.

At this time, no date has yet been set for the dialogue, and this is the fault of Duarte's government. Both the FDR and the FMLN are ready and willing to hold the dialogue at any time.

Ungo Says Duarte 'Lacks Real Power'

PA171609 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0033 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Guillermo Ungo, leader of the Salvadoran rebels' political wing, said this afternoon that Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte "lacks real power" to hold a dialogue with the guerrillas.

In a phone conversation from Panama City, FDR President Ungo told ACAN-EFE that Duarte "has taken too long" to reply officially to Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' mediation efforts.

Ungo added that in the same manner President Duarte has not met with Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas for more than 1 month and therefore has not given an official reply to the proposed dialogue without preconditions between the government and the rebels.

"Duarte has ignored the channels established beforehand and has referred hypothetically, and not directly, to the talks we have held with President Arias," Ungo said.

Regarding a statement made by Duarte on Tuesday, Ungo—who is exiled in Panama—said "because of his tremendous weakness and the lack of a real democracy, (Duarte) will not permit our presence in El Salvador; therefore, he is unable to hold a dialogue to agree on a cease-fire, as established by the Esquipulas II agreement."

The Salvadoran guerrilla leaders have met with President Oscar Arias twice in a diplomatic offensive to make possible a dialogue with Duarte without conditions.

Ungo said "it is not our intention by meeting with Arias to replace Rivera y Damas; we have responded to a call made by the Costa Rican president, who wanted to meet with us in an effort to begin a dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas."

Ungo, who is also the leader of the Social Democratic National Revolutionary Movement (MNT), said "despite Duarte's attitude, the FDR-FMLN will be waiting for a reply, avoiding confrontations or a rush."

After an agreement for a "lasting and stable" peace in Central America was signed on 7 August in Guatemala City, the FDR-FMLN proposed to Duarte a dialogue without conditions and even a temporary cease-fire during the talks to end the war in El Salvador.

Meanwhile, Duarte—saying he is acting within the framework of the "Esquipulas II" agreements—has repeatedly asked the rebels to explicitly accept the peace treaty, which calls for laying down weapons and joining the democratic process.

Ungo said: "We are in permanent communication with President Arias and are waiting for a reply from Duarte." He denied a third meeting with Arias is being arranged.

As for FDR leader Ruben Zamora rejoining the Salvadoran political process, Ungo denied it is due to an alleged division within the FDR.

Ungo described Duarte's language as that of a "dictator and a liar," comparing him to Chilean President Augusto Pinochet.

Ungo stressed: "We will return to El Salvador when Duarte fulfills the promises he made in Guatemala to the other Central American presidents."

Nicaragua

Reagan 'Reaffirms Disrespect' for Law

PA211846 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1822 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Text] Reaffirming his disrespect for international law and order, U.S. President Ronald Reagan today stated that he will continue his war against the Nicaraguan people by financing the Somozist mercenary forces.

In a speech given at the opening of the 42d UN General Assembly in New York, Reagan threatened Nicaragua, stating that he will not permit a democracy that is not in line with U.S. interests.

In no part of his speech did the U.S. President refer to the steps taken by the Sandinist government to comply with the peace agreements signed by the Central American presidents in Guatemala on 7 August. He also did not refer to the ruling of the International Court of Justice ordering him to stop any type of aggression, whether economic or military, against the Nicaraguan people.

Government-LA PRENSA Communique

PA211328 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Joint communique by the government and LA PRENSA newspaper owners issued in Managua on 19 September]

[Text] A meeting was held today between President Daniel Ortega and top-level government officials with the *La Prensa* Board of Directors, headed by Mrs Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. Costa Rican Foreign Affairs Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto was also present at this meeting and contributed toward the reconciling of positions that enables us to announce the following:

1. As of today, and within the Guatemalan agreements' framework, the Nicaraguan Government authorizes the reopening of *La Prensa* newspaper, without restrictions except for the responsible exercise of journalism.

2. In the same manner, the *La Prensa* Board of Directors hereby expresses its will to contribute toward climate of peace and understanding that the country requires in order to advance in the process of national dialogue and reconciliation, and expresses that it will endeavor to begin publishing the newspaper within the next few days, according to the newspaper's technical abilities.

Throughout the conversations there was a climate of mutual respect and joint interest in fully achieving the Guatemalan agreements. Nicaraguan Government officials and the *La Prensa* Board of Directors thank the Costa Rican foreign minister for his valuable contribution that made this understanding possible.

Managua, 19 September 1987

Chamorro Discusses Reopening

PA220419 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 21 Sep 87 p 5

[Text] Mrs Violeta Barrios de Chamorro issued a statement yesterday on behalf of *La Prensa's* Board of Directors, asserting their willingness to help achieve the peace and understanding that the country needs to attain progress in the national reconciliation process. She also stated their satisfaction because the newspaper has been reopened.

The newspaper's co-owner read the communique that states that—within the context of the Guatemala agreement—the Nicaraguan Government authorized the reopening of the newspaper *La Prensa* on 19 September, "with no other restrictions but those imposed by the responsible exercise of journalism."

Mrs Chamorro reported that she was notified of the revolutionary government's decision by President Daniel Ortega during a visit he made to her house accompanied by Commander Jaime Wheelock, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, and Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto. She added that an atmosphere of peace, mutual respect, and mutual interest prevailed during the talks.

Even though other board members had said that they were ready to begin publishing the newspaper in August, she stated that the newspaper's board of directors will try its hardest so that the newspaper can begin publishing on 1 October.

Mrs Chamorro, president of *La Prensa's* Board of Directors, issued some statements to the news media and said that she feels satisfied with the government's decision. She admitted that President Ortega's visit to her house had surprised her, and she added that the newspaper will be published freely without censorship.

Mrs Chamorro answered a foreign journalist's question concerning the publication of military and national security reports, saying: "That is *La Prensa's* responsibility and it will be done according to our views."

She answered another question by saying: "The newspaper's owners are not involved with Reagan's financial aid and support to the Somozist mercenaries. We live in Nicaragua and we hereby explain our position."

"Our editorial goal will be to contribute toward the achievement of national reconciliation, peace, and harmony. We want no more wars; we want all those who left Nicaragua to return so that we may have peace and tranquillity," she asserted.

Mrs Chamorro said *La Prensa's* reopening has taken place within the context of the peace agreements sponsored by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and signed by the five Central American presidents. She stated her hope that Radio Catolica will also reopen.

She asserted that President Ortega guaranteed that the revolutionary government is willing to help and guarantee *La Prensa's* security.

Mrs Violeta de Chamorro was accompanied by her daughter Cristina Chamorro, assistant director of the newspaper, Ana Maria Chamorro de Hollman, secretary of the Board of Directors, and Carlos Hollman Thompson, vice president of the Board of Directors, during the news conference. She added that Pablo Antonio Cuadra will continue as publisher of the newspaper.

Government Pardons 16 C.A. Citizens

PA172222 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 14 Sep 87 p 8

[Text] The revolutionary government yesterday decreed a pardon for 16 Central Americans in an effort to help detente, reconciliation, and dialogue among the countries of the region.

These citizens violated the Law on the Maintenance of Order and Public Security and other related laws, or violated the penal code. According to the decree, these individuals are:

From Honduras: Aurelio Amador Mairena, Santos Lucia Alvarado Rodas, Dolores Chavez Guerrero, Santos Perdomo Paz, Donaldo Ramos Carcamo, Heladio Solorzano Hernandez, Wilfredo Antonio Romero Sauceda, and Jorge Alberto Cerrato Rodriguez.

From El Salvador: Juan Jose Majano Umanzor, Jorge Alberto Orellana Rivas, Armando Moran Martinez, Oscar Rene Torres Pacheco, and Alejandro Toruno Duarte.

From Costa Rica: Maximo del C. Balladares Jimenez.

From Guatemala: Jose Gregorio Najera Andrade.

Panama: Norberto Evaristo Torres Tejada.

According to the decree, as soon as it is published "the pertinent authorities will proceed to release those favored by the decree. In addition, the Nicaraguan Government will have to contact the respective Central American governments, through the pertinent means, to facilitate their repatriation with the help of the organizations created by the Esquipulas II agreement and the corresponding international, welfare, or humanitarian agencies."

Another decree signed by President Ortega that is within the spirit of the Esquipulas II agreement is the abolishment of Decree 760 of 19 July 1981, the State Seizure of Abandoned Properties, published in *The Gazette*, issue No. 162 of 22 July 1987.

BRIEFS

Trade Agreements With Guatemala

In accordance with the spirit of the Esquipulas II agreement, Guatemala and Nicaragua have signed bilateral trade agreements to strengthen and reactivate bilateral trade. Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez and Guatemalan Economy Minister Lizardo Sosa signed the agreements. [Summary] *[Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Sep 87 PA]*

Panama

'Sinister' U.S. Diplomats Criticized

PA181448 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Sep 87 pp 1,18

[Article by Luis Manuel Martinez: "The Last Shot"—passage in boldface as published]

[Text] **The tricky threesome who are used to manipulating the people of the countries where they work, protected by diplomatic immunity, are trying to recover in Panama the loss of prestige they have suffered.**

John Maisto, David Miller, and Visa Williamson [name as published] **are the same ones who moved about in Manila with the impunity that their economic resources allowed them. After the United States had put Ferdinand Marcos in power and made his beautiful wife Imelda Asia's first lady, these three turned to pressure Marcos.**

First they forced Marcos to move the elections forward, then they congratulated him for having held them, and then they put him on an Air Force plane and dispatched him to Hawaii.

Not even 2 years have elapsed, and despite the hurried structure and the popularity borrowed from her husband Ninoy President Corazon Aquino has reached her true level of ineptitude and hesitation.

The crisis faced by this threesome has led them to despair and to commit public acts totally outside their diplomatic roles and outside the respect they should have toward a country friendly to the United States, like Panama.

Marcos' elimination was intended to win over the People's National Army so that, through negotiations, they would eschew guerrilla actions and join in politics, with the understanding that many seats for senators, deputies, and mayorships would be guaranteed beforehand.

Cory Aquino, despite getting an operational manual from the Manila threesome, could convince neither the guerrillas nor the communist leaders who rejected her promises and ignored the amnesty she had decreed for them.

When the U.S. State Department strategists felt satisfied with the three's work, it was decided to transfer them to Panama, following instructions from Elliott Abrams, under secretary for Latin American affairs, and Senator Jesse Helms.

Helms was to be the U.S. Senate's liaison and Abrams the man who would handle the leaders under the so-called Model Plan. Among those leaders are Gabriel Lewis Galindo and Roberto Eisenmann.

A recently published book entitled *Dancing With the Dictator* tells intimate stories of the honors rendered to Mrs Marcos by Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger, and other prominent Washington figures.

To feel comfortable, they shed their dark executive suits, dressing in airy, knit guayaberas at the elegant receptions held at the Malacanang Palace. Since the Philippines was an example of the destabilizing power of U.S. technology, Maisto, working full steam on his Model Plan, had the brilliant idea of sending Father Fernando Guardia and the youthful [imberbe] Aurelio Barria, president of the Chamber of Commerce, to Manila in March so that they could see how easily these people create and destroy governments.

Overseas in the Pacific, at Asia's front door, Barria and Guardia met with members of the purest democracy, and they returned praising the elections the government had won with more than 90 percent of the votes. Of 24 seats in the Senate, Mrs Aquino won 23 and at the last minute Juan Ponce Enrile was allowed to occupy his seat.

Months later, with the Modelo and the Civic Crusade fabricated by the attacking threesome, the incidents in the Philippines broke out. [sentence as published]

More than 2,000 troops who had staged an uprising, along with several generals who had joined the mutiny, as well as the cadets at the Military Academy, all signed a statement supporting the protest.

The basic complaint: tolerance of Communism and an inability to resolve the Philippines' most urgent problems.

The Aquino plan was certainly not yielding the dividends promised by the trio.

Closer to us, in the agitated and racially-mixed Caribbean, Haiti was moving toward elections imposed with a total lack of knowledge of the country's history and its most decisive realities.

Today, Touissant de Louverture's fatherland is in much worse condition than when it was under Papa Doc's presidency for life.

Both situations forced the threesome, whose current area of operations is Panama, to launch an attack in force in search of a success that would compensate for the disasters in Manila and Port-au-Prince.

The Poindexter and Elliott Abrams plan was instigated by Helms and the entire reactionary elite, which insists on sidestepping the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. This group has become irate, moving from commercial strikes to demonstrations. They have tried to entrench themselves in the university, and finally they are determined to turn San Miguelito into a theater of blood and death.

Is proof of their desperation necessary?

David Miller, the third ranking official at the U.S. Embassy in our country, was seen on Sunday at the nerve center of the provocation planned in Las Cumbres, encouraging his troops to enter San Miguelito.

U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis attended the auction at the Dante Mansion accompanied by his daughter Susan, who is divorced from a pianist.

The mischievious Susan dresses in white, participates in the vigils and protests, telling anyone willing to listen, "Do not be discouraged. The United States is with you. We will not abandon you."

This Arthur Davis is the same ambassador who left sad memories in Asuncion, Paraguay, because of his dipsomania (this is how it was described in Paraguay), and because General Stroessner put him in his place when he visited him to demand the immediate opening of the newspaper *ABC*.

The incident hastened Davis' withdrawal from the land of the Guarani because he was rejected by all the social and political sectors of that country. Davis managed to unite the Colorados and the Febreristas against himself. Government and opposition rejected him. He could not gain diplomatic immunity for his daughter Susan, a privilege she enjoys in Panama. Today, convinced that it is urgent to gain ground, to ease the tension in Washington against himself and his team, Davis has no qualms about being a militant in the Civic Crusade activities organized by Maisto, who was certain that the constitutional government would be toppled and the provisional junta established no later than 15 June.

Susan, meanwhile, attends "people's demonstrations" with her father and supports, encourages, and promotes all sorts of destabilization activities by an opposition that is bereft of ties with the great national majorities but is rich and obedient thanks to Washington's sponsorship.

And its plans after it reaches power include the dissolution of FENASEP [National Association of Associations and Organizations of Public Employees] and its civil service system because the "new government" will have to recompense its handkerchief wielders and pot bangers.

The barefaced meddling we are witnessing is intended to eliminate the peasant settlements with a stroke of the pen and return to the landowners the land Torrijos took away from them.

There is already a plan to distribute perquisites because the Labor Code is also one of the priorities of these heroes of democratization, justice, freedom, and honesty who live in glass houses but don't realize they should not throw stones.

Maisto, Miller, and Visa Williamson are going to have to return to Manila. That is why they are firing their last shot in San Miguelito.

They have to shore up Corazon Aquino, who is plagued by her own lack of political skill and administrative ineptitude.

The Philippine guerrillas are now attacking and laying ambushes in the cities. In a few months they have moved their offensives from the wooded and rural areas to the cities.

The method that has failed in other countries will not triumph in the Isthmian giant [as published].

Where will these sinister people—whose spirit and insolence make them so different from the U.S. people, whom they do not represent in any sense—end up after they have fired their last shot?

Prayers will have to be said about the new destination of Maisto, Miller, Williamson, Davis, and Susan.

In the meantime, Cynthia Farrell, director of cultural affairs of the embassy on Balboa Avenue, will repeat: "We invoke Miller's diplomatic immunity, which was not taken into account."

And Chico Stone, the colonel of the military group, will present himself in San Miguelito each time there is a demonstration.

And the ambassador will say with his typical cool manner: "Miller was in San Miguelito involved in activities connected with his official duties."

It is as if provoking chaos in a peace-loving country had the status of a diplomatic or international rule.

Every passing day Panamanians are looking more indignantly and irately at the actions of the three masterminds of the Modelo Plan and asking the same question *La*

Estrella de Panama asked: "HOW MUCH LONGER, MR PRESIDENT?"

Government Communique on CNN Reporter

PA182311 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Sep 87 pp 1, 14-A

[Communique issued by the National Directorate of Social Communications Media in Panama City on 17 September]

[Text] The National Directorate of Social Communications Media considers the following explanation necessary:

First: Mrs Lucia Newman, a U.S. citizen, was registered in this country as a foreign correspondent with temporary professional duties for the U.S. television network CNN until 15 August 1987.

Second: Mrs Lucia Newman continued to send news out of the country after this date and that she frequently gave inaccurate information about the country's socio-political situation without being duly registered and thus did not comply with Article 11 of Law 67, dated 19 September 1978, which reads as follows:

"Article 11: Foreign journalists who have temporary professional duties within the country must register at the Journalist Technical Council, which will issue them a special journalist permit for the time required for that particular duty. This does not exclude them from the obligation of registering with the Government and Justice Ministry."

Third: Confronted with these facts, the National Directorate of Social Communications Media called on the aforementioned lady on 16 September 1987 and informed her that she could not continue to act as a foreign correspondent in our country.

Fourth: We note, however, that Mrs Lucia Newman may continue to live in Panama as long as her status with the immigration department continues to be valid.

Fifth: We consider it important to state that CNN television network can assign another foreign correspondent to our country as long as he complies with the Panamanian laws that regulate journalism.

Issued in Panama City on 17 September 1987.

Osvaldo Gudino Aguilar

Acting National Director of Social Communications Media

Argentina

Alfonsin Assesses Election Results, Economy

PY190247 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Sep 87

[Address to the nation by President Raul Alfonsin from his office in Buenos Aires on 18 September—recorded]

[Text] Good evening. I wanted to greet you and discuss the election results.

My first observation is that 6 September was a day of peace. I say this basically because elections were not peaceful in the past; but the present and future were at issue. Each voter played his own role, and I think everyone showed that the concerns and, particularly, fear, have disappeared from our country.

For a strongly committed democrat, who has been honored with the designation of president of Argentines, nothing could have been more satisfactory and moving than these elections, which were the cleanest and most exemplary in Argentine history.

As you can imagine, this does not mean that I would not have preferred to have won the elections. As a matter of fact, to each of you I could say what an old mayor of my hometown, Chascomuz, used to say many years ago, after losing an election. He went into the streets and asked each person he happened to run into: What have you done to me, you did not vote for me.

I really think perhaps the long time we spent without democracy has made us forget how to exercise democracy, among other things, the progress and the retrogression of the political sectors, and the ups and downs and fluctuations of the majority.

The outcome of the elections should not be overemphasized. Elections are a natural event. It seems to me that many voters voted for candidates who were not of their parties, as happens in all consolidated democracies.

No one, neither the winners nor the losers, should think that voters cannot change their minds. No one should feel the burden of defeat or the triumph of victory. [sentence as heard] You can rest assured that time will punish either attitude.

I believe a substantial number of voters cast their votes in the belief that the government was to blame for the socioeconomic situation affecting everyone.

Obviously, we failed to depict the real circumstances of our situation. Therefore, we will say first that we cannot say that the voters were wrong or, even less, immature. The government was wrong, because it failed to transmit, at least clearly, the complexity of our present crisis.

Yet, regarding the way the government has confronted the crisis, I would like to convey to you a very simple idea of which I am convinced. Each one of you, whatever your ideology, should rest assured that any solution to the crisis devised by whichever economist you prefer will not vary much from the current general guidelines the government has adopted.

When I tell you that things could have hardly been otherwise, or that a different solution could have hardly been found, I mean something very simple. It is very clear that the outcome of the elections show that our people demand better living conditions. It is also clear for the Argentine people that the resources available to the country to ensure legitimate well being are scarce, very scarce. That is, there were very few chances to meet the expectations of Argentines with Argentina's possibilities. Things could have been done perhaps a little better or a little worse. The path, however, would have been the same, unless someone irresponsibly resorted to a demagogic alternative.

Let me add something else to measure the magnitude of what I am telling you. People my age will surely remember the crisis of the thirties, in their childhood.

I remember, for example, the large number of slum dwellers who used to ring the doorbell at my house asking for food. There was hunger. And what happened?

Well, international prices have dropped to very low levels. Now we have the foreign debt problem. These two problems represent a tremendous burden for all. The situations are similar, although we can clearly see that in a nation with 50 million inhabitants, supplementary food rations must be given to 5 million.

This tell us something very important. We must all admit that we are not going to pull out of stagnation and underdevelopment by engaging in selfish struggles and by reducing production. We will overcome underdevelopment only through an aggressive production policy, and through integration in international markets. We must add to this common effort we must all make to support a more efficient government, a business sector willing to play its changing role, and a vigorous working class willing to fight for its legitimate interests within the framework of the national desire for growth, modernization, and social justice.

I believe elections have also showed us that economic decisions must be made based on justice and solidarity. There should be no differences among Argentines. We must all engage in the struggle for growth.

But we must admit that the Argentine economy will not keep growing unless the basis for an investment effort is established. Otherwise, we will surely fall into a new and more serious crisis. This crisis, of course, will affect both the domestic and foreign sectors, and can lead us to hyperinflation that will affect all sectors, not only the economy, but society and institutions as well. Consequently, the policies which must be the essence of Argentines and of their government's actions, focuses on a few points:

The first point is the foreign sector, and Argentine integration in the world. The second point deals with social participation and responsibility in the transformation process. The third point refers to the state.

Regarding the first point, the foreign sector, and ties Argentina must have with the world, we must understand that if our country isolates itself in its own underdevelopment cycle, it will only generate more underdevelopment.

It is true that there are great limitations from abroad inhibiting our ability to grow, such as the foreign debt and the decrease in the prices of our products. But likewise, it is true that we can receive key opportunities for our growth from abroad.

I would like to insist on these two aspects because even though the limitations from abroad are quite clear to everyone, it seems to me that looking abroad as a source of opportunities has not yet been considered with the necessary force by society or by the state.

In other words, there are two kinds of policies in relation to the foreign sector. There is a policy aimed at controlling restrictions and another aimed at creating better opportunities. Regarding the need to control the restrictions created by the foreign debt, we have established a general principle of negotiations as a method. Negotiation is the instrument of our policy not only because we believe in dialogue but also because we do not want to jump into the dark. If we did it would do us more harm than good. You can be sure of that. It would lead us to isolation and there would be more reprisals than benefits. Therefore, as we once said, the outside world would stop offering us opportunities and become conflictive.

But it is clear the negotiations should not be mistaken as concessions and weaknesses. Under current circumstances, the international policy of the foreign debt problem suffocates the growth opportunities of our countries. Therefore, since we have been convinced of what the majority of Argentines want, we have decided to begin firm negotiations abroad; first of all to reduce the uncertainty created by the fluctuations of international interest rates.

As I said a few days ago during the industrial exhibition, so far this year the interest rates have increased about 2 points, 1.8 percent. This means that in 1 year we would have to pay $700 million more than we planned. This occurred, logically, outside our control and outside our ability to act.

Therefore, it is difficult to think about planning or even about the administration of state resources that have to pay the debt because it is as if we are under a Damocles sword—not knowing how big it is or when it is going to fall on us.

Therefore, it is impossible to continue with this kind of uncertainty. We demand a fixed interest rate, a more realistic rate. In addition to that, the narrow margin of maneuverability we have in our economy is reduced even more by IMF policies. It has already been very costly for us to impose what the IMF calls a heterodox policy which Argentina implemented in the past. But those conditions can no longer continue. We cannot accept prescriptions that go against national interests.

Therefore, we have decided to strive for greater flexibility that would be compatible with the idea of growth as a need everyone shares. Abroad, no one doubts the responsibility of the Argentine Government. I assure you that we will not cease being responsible. But I also assure you that we will not even think of giving our future away.

Beside, as I said, the foreign sector is an excellent source of opportunities for our growth. First, because foreign trade is the only method by which we can increase production based on sales to larger markets. That is, the possibilities to sell our products will increase. If our products are only sold domestically, it is clear that our production will be limited.

In addition, Argentina's participation in the world modifies our domestic game rules and behavior. This is a key factor that we could call a new form of production. This production used technology and allowed the world to develop while we debated uselessly within our own decadence. These new forms of production also mean one has to know how to invest and work.

Finally, we must also consider the fact that international participation could boost the capitalization process of our economy. Of course, we do not have anything like the magic recipes that promised us all the necessary capital would come suddenly to Argentina and solve all our problems. This is not the case.

We can, nonetheless, say that there are opportunities abroad and if we continue being serious and efficient, we will know how to take advantage of them.

Therefore, I have decided to concentrate our foreign activities around these objectives, with the purpose of restricting the problems and taking advantage of the opportunities.

The second issue is that of social participation and responsibility in the transformation process. The main concern of the Argentine people should be to change, as well as to progress with justice and solidarity. In this aspect, I don't think there are any differences with the 6 September elections.[sentence as heard]

With these firm principles, society and government must fight a battle on two fronts: First, that of the urgent economic problems we have ahead. No one doubts that inflation has once again placed us before an emergency we must overcome. I want you to know that the national government will not allow the country to return to those times when tremendous inflation diminished peoples' incomes and deterred investments.

I know there is a justified concern for the possible loss of the achievements that cost us so much. I am aware there is deep and justified concern about the possibility of

losing the achievements which have demanded so much effort during the past 2 years. I believe this was a key factor in the 6 September elections. I want you to know that I am also concerned about this and that I will do everything in my power in the government to solve such maladjustments, trying to avoid recession and to preserve productivity, employment, and, particularly, investment levels.

I once told Argentines that ours is a wartime economy. I am still convinced this is true, and I am still committed to the effort to distribute the burden the economy has placed upon your shoulders fairly. We are trying to build a more just society. The existence of irritating inequalities undermines national efforts. Argentines should be assured that we will strive to enforce the principle of equality in every possible manner.

In particular, we are planning to use three major methods: The first method consists of allocating funds to more efficiently help the needier sectors. To eradicate the social inequalities that have prevailed for many years is therefore a major task. The second method is to finance social expenses with genuine resources, because otherwise, there would be no solution. Social expenses should be financed through a tax system in which the tax burden is levied according each taxpayer's income level. We thus want to build a society based on solidarity, in which those who earn more and have more pay more taxes, and in which the have-nots do not feel that they have been abandoned.

The third method is to use the energy of the country to promote our growth. Even though it is true that we are going through a time of need, you can be sure that this does not mean we have resigned ourselves to stagnation. We will continue to promote investment and the use of the country's human and material resources. We know the role of the state is to promote production, not to act as producer. Uncertainty must be wiped out and there must be clear rules for the game. The driving force of growth is a business sector willing to meet the challenge of competitors and to commit its own capital. The times of fiscal generosity are over, not because of ideological reasons but because otherwise, it will be impossible to find solutions.

The country has old and new frontiers to conquer in order to achieve growth, and its inhabitants can direct their aspirations for progress toward those frontiers. There is potential that must be exploited in the areas of agriculture, industry, hydrocarbons, and the production of public services. The government is responsible for deregulating social initiatives and for eliminating any restrictions, because we cannot afford to bequeath this task to future generations.

Thus, I want to tell you that we must persevere to achieve stability, justice, and growth. Neither shortcuts nor isolated measures will help us solve our immediate problems overnight. No individual measure, no matter how ingenious, will by itself pave the way for national growth. We need a package of measures.

The third area on which we will concentrate our action is the transformation of the state. I believe you clearly understand that an inefficient state could block, jeopardize, or complicate the objectives I have just mentioned, namely, the promotion of our exports, the search for new resources, our association with other countries, and better negotiations on the debt, on the external front; and the fight against inflation, the implementation of the various social programs, and the creation of new opportunities for the private sector, on the domestic front.

We are facing another dilemma on this topic. On the one hand, it would be very difficult to implement innovative projects without reforming the state; and on the other hand, we cannot wait for a state reform to implement these projects. Therefore, without discontinuing our overall modernization program, we will decisively address the transformation of those sectors that are directly linked to the policies I have just mentioned.

Yet, in addition to these actions, we must all be aware of the role the state must play in implementing these policies. The state must bring about transformation, it must guarantee a well-balanced social effort, and it must stimulate private undertakings.

The government must concentrate on this package of policies because we need to resolve our main problem—the severe shortage of resources needed to achieve growth, and to grow at a faster rate.

Fellow countrymen, the world must understand that the election and its outcome have resulted in the strengthening of our system. The election has in no way raised doubts about our future. All democratic people in the world must be aware of the Argentine people's unwavering decision to maintain their own system of government and way of life. The result of the election is in keeping with democracy; it is not the result of authoritarianism, which would be out of place in this country.

Allow me to be conceited. I believe we have promoted democracy in Argentina through our tenacious recommendations. Argentine society will never support a political party that fails to respect freedom, to strengthen coexistence, to ensure peace, or to overcome divisions.

In Argentine democratic sectors there is no dissent on the following major issues and objectives: love for the fatherland, national defense, improvement of living conditions, the search for a just democracy, and the elimination of past contradictions and of negative historical accounts. Of course, disagreements exist on certain minor points regarding how to achieve these great objectives.

The existence of great common objective leads us to view with optimism the possibility of an understanding among all sectors, so that everybody, without sacrificing his identity or rights as a government or opposition member, can fulfill his duties effectively. But I want to stress that it will be very important for me to be allowed to govern during the next 2 years.

The election results leave no room for arrogance. In the exercise of government there are many examples of interdependence and control that will impose certain basic agreements that must be reached in order to sustain a good development level through the proper functioning of the government. I think it is urgent to reach basic agreements at national, provincial, and even municipal levels. I have always maintained this, and I do so now more than ever. Basic agreements must be reached on economic and social issues, on resources and their distribution, on education, on health care, on living conditions, and on all matters that yield good results for Argentine society.

The world is an example for us. As you know, growing interdependence, and current social and political developments tend to eliminate differences among nations. We cannot overlook this process in the world. Nations like ours, with similar cultural backgrounds, with similar socioeconomic levels, and with similar customs, such as the Latin-European countries, clearly show us that living conditions can be developed and improved with effort, order, and social peace.

We know what to do and what path to follow. We are also certain that political and social leaders know this. We have decided to have a more effective government; to demand the elimination of paralyzing routines; and to give up obsolete ideologies, prejudices, and utopias that the modern world has left behind.

The president has reasons, I believe, to be reasonably optimistic. The people, who have expressed their opinion so forcefully, will not tolerate failures. Above all, they will not tolerate disloyalty. Therefore, the president firmly promises to study carefully the significance of these elections.

By the time you see me on television, I will be in Chapadmalal, not losing votes I hope, but correcting errors, and especially, trying to understand the country's demands. More fruitful years are ahead of us. I am sure of this. The conditions are appropriate for clear and noble democratic competition.

We must now play the game of seeing who will govern the best. I am in this until the end. But if I do not win, if my ideas do not succeed, I will nonetheless be the proudest of all Argentines when I bestow the sash on the new president elected by the people.

I believe the people did not vote against the philosophy followed by the government through its ethics of solidarity, effort, and democratic participation. Moreover, I do not believe they voted against the great transforming projects.

Therefore, we will retain our objectives of modernizing, improving health insurance, holding the pedagogical congress, promoting Latin American integration, strengthening the federal system, decentralizing, reforming the state, and rationalizing the administration.

As for constitutional reform, I ask all of you to discuss it. We will report summaries of the decisions made by the Council for the Consolidation of Democracy so that everybody may learn about them.

You know this perfectly well, but I want to reiterate that constitutional reform is not a personal issue. However—and without intending to hinder its study—I decided not send the draft constitution to Congress until the majority of the people have clearly expressed their opinion. I do not wish to push the Argentine people toward new conflicts now.

I will nonetheless ask you to help me on the issue of the new capital. You were led to believe it would be a pharoanic project. This is not the case. I promise that it will not represent a significat fiscal effort in the remaining 2 years of my administration. I said it before, and I reassert it: With the sale of one embassy we will be able to finance the construction of most of the public buildings.

You know that the lights—unfortunately dim—of Buenos Aires continue to attract people from the interior. Out of a national population of 30 million, nearly 10 million people are settled in Buenos Aires. Let us build houses and schools in the new capital. Let us put an end to this macrocephalia. Let us support Patagonia. Let us also help boost the construction industry, and make the old Argentine dream of strengthening the federal system come true.

Fellow countrymen, now is the time to be clear, to discuss frankly and openly. The government will help: all the ministers will go to Congress once a week to answer questions from the congressmen. We will broadcast these questioning sessions over radio and television.

In conclusion, as president of the Republic I express my congratulations to all those who were elected at all levels. I wish them success in their administration. Efficient work and loyalty to democracy will benefit the republic. Thank you.

Leaders Reaction to Speech

PY202330 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Sep 87 p 15

[Text] (NA-DYN)—President Raul Alfonsin's attack on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in his radio and television broadcast on Friday night met with mixed reactions yesterday but there was general approvement of his announcement that his government would indefinitely postpone its plans on constitutional reform.

Democratic Center Union (UCEDE) Lower House member Alvaro Alsogaray said the president should not try to blame the IMF for his own economic failures while Intransigent Party leader Oscar Alende said Alfonsin had accepted what he described as recessive prescriptions from the IMF which he now termed ridiculous.

Renewal Peronist Lower House member Roberto Digon claimed the president had shown stubborness in ratifying his economic policies although he had admitted that

they were probably the reason for the Radical upset defeat in the September 6 elections.

Catamarca Peronist Governor-elect Vicente Saadi said Alfonsin had been frank in admitting errors and in saying that the winning or losing of elections was part of the ups and downs of democracy but had not given any indication of changing his government policies.

Lower House minority leader Jose Luis Manzano said Alfonsin's true message was the composition of his new cabinet and the ratification of his economic policies.

Lower House member Maria Julia Alsogaray, also of the UCEDE, said Alfonsin's speech appeared aimed at recovering his calm and not letting himself be overwhelmed by events.

Alsogaray said she doubted that the foreign debt was at the core of the economic situation because the rescheduling of payments had been well achieved "but the problem is they can not find the money to pay it."

The elder Alsogaray described the postponement of the constitutional reform project as positive while Alende said the President's announcement indicated that the proposal was beyond the government's reach.

Foreign Minister Postpones Trip to New York
PY220326 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has postponed his trip to New York, where he will address the UN General Assembly, for 48 hours, until tomorrow night.

Although nothing has been officially reported, the delay could be due to the need to designate a new international relations secretary before his departure. This post has been left vacant with the appointment of Jorge Sabato as education minister.

PRC Trade Delegation Visits Buenos Aires 21 Sep
PY211814 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1536 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Text] La Plata, 21 Sep (TELAM)—Today Buenos Aires Governor Alejandro Armendariz met with a PRC delegation and discussed bilateral issues such as trade and cultural exchanges.

The PRC delegation is headed by Zhang Xiangshan, adviser of the PRC Central Committee International Liaison Department.

Zhang briefed Governor Armendariz and other provincial officials on the [words indistinct] his country, and supported an increase in trade between the two nations, particularly with Buenos Aires Province.

Bolivia

Soviet Technical, Financial Cooperation Sought
PY182226 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 5 Sep 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] The "El Bala" hydroelectric project of northern La Paz will be the main subject analyzed from a technical and economic viewpoint during the next Soviet-Bolivian government-level meeting. The meeting is due to be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra from 12 to 15 October 1987.

"El Bala" is a gigantic project that will help in the development of northern Bolivia. The project includes building a generator for the Beni River, as well as projects for irrigation, flood control, fisheries development, and tourist development.

Alfredo Olmedo, under secretary for international economic and financial affairs, is in charge of the material preparation for the Bolivian representatives. He said in 10 years the "El Bala" project will be analyzed again in view of the financial and technological support offered by the USSR.

Olmedo said the Bolivian Government has invited the USSR "to promote and build the project. The project calls for large investments, technological capacity, and many civil works. The USSR is prepared and qualified to build the project."

The Foreign Ministry wants to give specific responsibilities in specific projects to the industrialized nations. This will demonstrate at an international level, the result of their cooperation, their technological progress, and the quality of their development.

Olmedo reported that from 12 to 15 October, Bolivian and Soviet Government representatives will hold the third meeting within the framework of the permanent joint economic commission. The two countries will seek to reactivate bilateral trade, reschedule the Bolivian debt, and analyze specific projects that qualify for aid and financing.

"The main objective of the meeting is to promote trade, which currently amounts to only $3 million annually. This figure is not a reflection of our economic potential," he added.

The agenda also includes the debts owed by COMIBOL [Mining Corporation of Bolivia], the Mining Bank, and the private mining sector over the purchase of mining equipment. During the meeting, a new economic accord will be agreed upon. The accord will have new terms: a 25-year repayment period, a 5-year grace period, and 2.5 percent interest rate." [quotation mark as published]

Concerning Bolivian exports, Olmedo said a product list has been prepared. The list, including amounts, prices, quality and a request to establish quotas. The agreement for the provision of tin, bismuth, and antimony minerals will be updated. For its part, the USSR will offer equipment and machinery, transportation and capital goods.

Concerning the Bolivian foreign debt, a request for renegotiating $12,000,000 will be submitted to the USSR, on the basis of a request previously submitted to

the Soviet Embassy in Bolivia. The Soviet Embassy has said it will agree to be repaid with manufactured goods, raw materials, and services through Aeroflot—if an agreement is reached to allow Aeroflot flights to Bolivia.

At the Santa Cruz meeting, projects will be submitted for the assembly of agricultural tractors, based on a proposal formulated by the Armed Forces National Development Corporation (COFADENA); for the construction of a meat processing plant in Beni; for cooperation in mining programs; and for the provision of financial resources to reopen the La Palca melting plant, built by a binational company with Soviet technology.

Olmedo stressed the cordiality and understanding in the talks with Soviet representatives.

Peru Offers Matarani 'Free Port' to Aid Exports

PY171305 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2226 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] La Paz, 15 Sep (EFE)—The Peruvian Government has offered Bolivia a "Free Port" in the Matarani seaport to facilitate the export of Bolivian products to international markets and to help overcome Bolivia's landlocked situation.

The Peruvian Embassy in La Paz has reported that Peruvian officials have created a special commission which will be in charge of selecting the best site and of drafting regulations for the free port operation. The commission is scheduled to submit the report within a 60 day deadline.

According to the Peruvian Embassy, the main reason for establishing a Bolivian free port is to facilitate the handling of Bolivian trade through the Matarani seaport.

It adds that the special commission will be comprised of officials from the Transportation and Communications Ministry, the Housing and Construction Ministry, the Foreign Relations Ministry, and the Peruvian National Railway Enterprise (ENAFER).

The Peruvian Embassy has stated that the Peruvian Government's decision to offer a "free port" to Bolivia seeks to strengthen an "Andean pact to undertake joint actions," to help resolve transportation and communications problems resulting from Bolivia's landlocked situation; and to implement several cooperation agreements signed by Bolivia and Peru.

Brazil

Soviet Foreign Minister's Visit Previewed

PY211854 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Sep 87 p 49

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Brasilia on 28 September will have a very important political aim: to achieve a greater rapprochement between the Brazilian and Soviet Governments. According to the Brazilian Foreign Ministry officials planning Shevardnadze's visit, this is the main aspect of the Soviet foreign minister's visit. They added, however, that the Brazilian Government thinks Brazil and the USSR must first normalize relations, in order to achieve a political understanding.

Shevardnadze and Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre will sign an important long-term agreement on economic, commercial, scientific, and technological cooperation to promote bilateral rapprochement.

According to diplomatic sources, the agreement provides for the implementation of cooperation projects in almost all Brazilian and Soviet economic sectors, ranging from the agricultural to the industrial sectors.

In the scientific area, the two countries want to increase the scientist exchange program that began about 2 years ago. This year, four Brazilian scientists went to the USSR to acquire new technology, while an equal number of Soviet scientists came to Brazil.

According to a diplomat, Brazil is eager to expand bilateral cooperation programs in the scientific and technological fields in the near future. The diplomat added that the Brazilian Government hopes that once the Soviet opening process being promoted by Mikhail Gorbachev takes hold, the two countries will be able to carry out joint research programs and establish joint ventures in the USSR.

According to a source, Brazil's greatest interest in this sector is to introduce Brazilian software [preceding word in English] into the Soviet market "because in microcomputers we are ahead of them." The diplomat added: It is our intention to place Brazilian technology and Brazilian products at a low cost and on a large scale in the USSR. The export of Brazilian technology to the USSR has been part of Brazil's plan from the start.

In addition to being interested in long term agreements, the Brazilian Government wants to elevate bilateral trade to levels comparable to the 1979-83 period. It was in this period that Brazil started to buy Soviet oil. In 1983, oil represented 90 percent of Brazilian imports from the USSR, while in 1987, Soviet oil exports to Brazil represented less than 50 percent of Soviet exports to Brazil. Itamaraty reports show that Brazilian-Soviet bilateral trade is gradually decreasing. Brazil exported a total of $168 million to the USSR during the January-June 1986 period while exports during the same period in 1987 totaled $140 million.

Bresser Discusses Debt Negotiation Objectives

PY220253 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Sep 87 p 13

[Text] Brasilia—A few days before Brazil's official negotiations with its creditors begin on 25 September in New York, Finance Minister Bresser Pereira said Brazil is not

seeking a temporary agreement with its creditors. It is seeking a better agreement than those that Mexico, Argentina, and the Philippines obtained from the international banks.

The three main points, according to Minister Bresser Pereira, which express Brazil's idea of an adequate solution to the foreign debt problem are: smaller spreads [preceding word in English] (risk tax); negotiations with the banks that do not depend on an agreement with the IMF; and new types of foreign financing with more time to pay the debt and lower interest rates. The Brazilian Government, he said, is interested in negotiations with its creditors based on these three points.

"We want an agreement that meets the national interests," he said. Minister Bresser Pereira has no illusions that the creditors will rapidly accept Brazil's proposals, but he believes these proposals will at least be "seriously received and discussed." He recalled that the French and Japanese finance ministers have recently said the proposals presented by the Brazilian Government are worth considering.

Bresser is convinced that the suggestions presented for the negotiation of the debt represent a new path toward a long-term solution to the problem of the Brazilian foreign debt. He believes these proposals are also supported in Brazil. Bresser commented on the expressions of support received from Brazilian businessmen, and on Congress' decision to submit the negotiation proposals to the Senate Special Foreign Debt Committee, which will discuss them this morning.

According to Bresser, it is important to the government that the Brazilian negotiations have congressional support before sitting down at the negotiating table with the creditors. It is businessmens' unanimous opinion that the Brazilian Government must find longer-lasting solutions to the debt problem.

Minister Bresser referred to his recent meeting with U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker III as a "succession of mistakes," that will be cleared up over time. He added only that the creditors and the Brazilian Government share a common interest in finding a suitable solution to the debt problem.

Bresser again compared the performance of the U.S. and Brazilian media. He praised the U.S. press, which "defends U.S. interests," and criticized the Brazilian press, which puts national interests in second place in its "greed to obtain more readers."

Yesterday, the finance minister again met with his assistants, including Central Bank President Fernando Milliet, to discuss the latest details of the proposal to be presented to the creditors on 25 September.

Jan-Aug Trade Surplus Exceeds Expectations

PY180227 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Sep 87

[All figures as heard]

[Text] According to Namir Salek, director general of Banco do Brazil's Foreign Trade Department [CATEX], the Brazilian trade balance showed a surplus of $1,434,000,000 in August, making the 1987 total $4,886,000,000.

Salek said the Brazilian trade surplus will reach $9.6 billion this year if the monthly average of $790 million is maintained. The forecast at the begining of August showed a total surplus of only $8.7 billion.

Effective Brazilian exports—concrete exports with contracted exchange rates—reached $16,292,000,000 from January to August 1987 compared to $13,535,000,000 from January to July 1987. This shows a net increase of $2,759,000,000 in August.

CATEX estimates that imports will reach $11,360,000,000 in 1987, excluding oil. Adding oil imports the figure grows to $15,560,000,000. This value should increase because authorized import figures surpass by 20 percent the effective import figures. The balance of the authorized imports, which are the basis for the effective imports, reached $7,600,000,000 from January to August 1987.

Army To Resume Nuclear Reactor Research Project

PY200340 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Sep 87 p A4

[Text] Rio de Janerio—Army Ministry Science and Technology Secretary General Haroldo Erichsen, 63, said in Rio de Janeiro yesterday at 1400 that the Army will resume the research project on light-water reactors it abandoned in 1975 when the nuyclear agreement with the FRG was signed. The Army will thus be able to help the Navy "perhaps in building a low potency reactor, like the Argonaut," currently used in the Brazilian nuclear submarine program. Erichsen said the Army was left behind in the nuclear research field in relation with the Navy which has already mastered the uranium enrichment process through ultracentrifuge technology. However, he forecast that the Army "will catch up" with that "research and with the Navy."

Gen Haroldo Erichsen gave a speech at the Funding Authority for Studies and Projects (Finep), on Rio Branco Avenue in downtown Rio de Janeiro. He spoke from 1030 to 1345 about the Army science and technology policy. Making reference to statistics, he discussed the need to obtain more funds for the Army's science and technology research projects. He presented statistics from the Army yearbook according to which the Army's allotment from the national budget dropped from 3.86 percent in 1976 to 1.77 percent in 1987. He said this rate "tends to fall, if we don't stop it. However, Army Minister General (Leonidas Pires Goncalves) is already aware that this situation must improve in 1988."

According to Gen Erichsen, the Army "will recover the time lost" in the nuclear research field because the "new winds" of the autonomous (or parallel) nuclear program are an incentive to Army experts to follow post-graduate nuclear energy courses in the Military Engineering Institute (IME) in Urca, a southern Rio de Janeiro district. Gen Erichsen said: "Many engineers have already graduated in the Army," at the IME. The Army is thus supplying the Brazilian nuclear program with "brains," he added.

Defending the need for obtaining more funds for science and technology research projects, Gen Erichsen said the Brazilian Army "is in the worst position in Latin America." To justify this assertion, he cited the case of Argentina, which during the Malvinas War with England possessed high technology but was nonetheless defeated because that technology was foreign.

The problem, according to Erichsen, is that the foreign supplies were suspended at the exact moment Argentina needed fresh provisions, like for example French-made Exocet missiles.

Finep President Fabio Celso de Macedo Soares, reported that the Finep has contributed with $319,000 (nearly 160 million cruzados) for the construction of the Army Technological Center [Centro de Tecnologia do Exercito] in Sepetiba (30 km from downtown Rio de Janeiro), as well as for the simulator missile testing area in the test field of the Restinga de Marambaia, in the same region.

Chile

Pinochet Interviewed on Political Situation

PY161323 Santiago COSAS in Spanish
3 Sep 87 pp 8-11

[Interview with President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte by *Cosas* Director Monica Commandari at Government House in Santiago on 1 September—quotation marks as published]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Commandari] Mr President, you recently announced a proposal to move the National Congress to Valparaiso. How feasible is this project?

[Pinochet] Moving the Congress to Valparaiso is an interesting initiative that cannot but please those who favor regionalization and decentralization. An institution as important as Congress, if established in our main port, would generate real progress for Valparaiso. Just image everything that would develop around Congress: various kinds of communications modes, transportation, and service activities. Valparaiso is currently 1 and 1/2 hours from Santiago, and each day it gets closer. Technology is progressing and we must take advantage of it. This subject is being studied fully and seriously.

[Commandari] Do you feel you meet the requirements to be named the government Junta's presidential candidate?

[Pinochet] You must understand that the reply to this question, whatever it may be, will have a more meaningful effect then whether or nor I merely meet the requirements. Therefore, I will only tell you that the proposal for the presidential nomination will be made when the time comes and according to the Constitution's 27th transitory provision.

[Commandari] Do you think you could reconcile another presidential term with a congress that will possibly have an opposition majority?

[Pinochet] Why not? The president-Congress relationship demands a knowledge of history, reality, experience, vision, solid principles, patriotism, technical aspects, and a capability to analyze and resolve. Don't you think all these elements have been present all these years?...I am only answering this on an hypothetical basis; nothing more.

"Now, why do you say that Congress will possibly have an opposition majority? These are phrases beginning to be used to cause doubts. We trust the country will fully understand the plebiscite-Congress challenge. We will work for it."

[Commandari] What do you think of the results of the latest polls, which indicate that you do not have the clear support of the majority of the public?

[Pinochet] The results of the polls depend on the question being asked.

"They ask leading questions to get the answer they want. Let me repeat an example I used before. If I am asked, what do I want: democracy or dictatorship? Without a doubt I will reply democracy! And if I am asked democracy or communism? What would you say? You will see what the Chileans will answer.

[Commandari] Will you rely on the silent majority to win the plebiscite?

[Pinochet] Yes. The silent majority is the majority that does not shout, the one that does not belong to the political factions, that does not participate in "mobilizations" or "protests," it is the one that knows reality. That majority represents the pure Chileans, they are the great representatives of the country.

"I believe in the power that springs from certain ideas or projects and moral obligations capable of motivating people and making them commit themselves to an objective. It is something mystical, it means understanding that we are in something transcendental. I believe it will grow and be decisive. You will remember my words.

[Commandari] Do you believe the yes vote will win the plebiscite?

[Pinochet] I hope that an overwhelming majority will support the proposal of the Armed Forces commanders and the general director of Carabineros by voting "yes" and giving a new victory to the values of freedom we have defended.

[Commandari] There is only 1 year left for the appointment of a candidate for the plebiscite. However, you have not met with the democratic opposition. Do you not think this is negative for national reconciliation?

[Pinochet] Why would one thing have something to do with the other?

The interior minister, who is in charge of political matters, has clearly defined our position to the opposition. The political parties in formation, including one opposition party, have been received by the government. This is not the first time the government has talked and listened to the opposition.

There is a lot to be said about national reconciliation. Of course, if reconciliation is taken from the Pope's position, it cannot be confused with pacts and political deals, with mere tactical actions.

Now, if reconciliation is aimed at achieving unity and understanding we must begin by respecting the will of the people expressed in 1980 and by obeying the current legal order. This is essential. In order to have an understanding, the legal order must be obeyed because this is the civilized way to act.

[Commandari] Political scientists and leaders and even those who support the regime indicate that you have a better chance to win an open election than a plebiscite. Why did you not accept the idea of a constitutional reform for an open election?

[Pinochet] The plebiscite is established in the Constitution and was defined that way because it is more coherent with the mission of the government, the Armed Forces, and the police. The idea is to start the last phase of a process, a consolidation phase, by fully enforcing the institutions to strengthen them. This must be done without precipitating the country into political or ideological debates of a traditional nature to prevent the confrontation of candidates as in the past. The government has always been above parties. It does not identify with a sector or group, therefore, it cannot "test" itself in a traditional election involving parallel contradictory positions. This would lead us to enter the political arena for sure and we must not do that because our mission is beyond and above that.

Immediately after a stage of normalization, the country cannot be led into traditional presidential elections. This would create serious risks for the process and work done. What was planned and what is not a commitment with a party or political position but with something higher, with an institutional option, which must be completed and which identifies itself with freedom and progress. Basically that is what it is. We do everyone's work for everyone. We are moving toward the national democracy we defined in 1980. That is what a yes vote means.

The idea is not to elect a formula to win. The idea is to act in coherence with what we are. Guarantors of an institutionality which must face a challenge for the approval of a proposal to make the true ideals of national democracy and freedom a reality.

[Commandari] Some politicians say your desire to run for a new presidential term reflects your napoleonic ambitions. What do you have to say about this?

[Pinochet] They have been unable to stop making biased and absurd descriptions and comparisons.

[Commndari] What political inspiration made you appoint Sergio Fernandez as interior minister again?

[Pinochet] Due to the nature of their duties, the ministers of state are essentially temporary in their posts; either because they have already accomplished the task entrusted to them or because a new phase begins or because we face new challenges and resultant necessary adjustments which are reported to the public from time to time.

"Concerning Mr Fernandez, his personal talents and his career in the government and in other important public posts made me consider him the appropriate person to head the Interior Ministry in the current phase of institutional development."

[Commandari] The opposition has said this Cabinet is conducting an election campaign because of the political and ideological leanings of its members. What is your opinion on this assessment?

[Pinochet] That is just another of the opposition's opinions which is rash and groundless.

"The problem is that they keep thinking about campaigns. Many of them have an electoral spirit which prevents them from viewing things as they really are. Do not forget that many of them are responsible for the political crisis that prevailed before 1973, for useless political chicanery, for rallying, and for demagoguery."

[Commandari] Nevertheless, the opposition says your nationwide tours are part of an election campaign...

[Pinochet, interrupting] We are governing, not conducting [election] campaigns. We are promoting policies seeking the effective development of agriculture, mining, housing, fishing, lumber industries, etc. We want the country to be in the best possible status when the current presidential term is completed. We have fulfilled our programs. Therefore, housing projects, public works, and different projects are being delivered. I am always visiting different regions, you know that. I wanted to gain firsthand information and learn about the aspirations and concerns of the community. In a nutshell, this is a government that achieves its goals, and it will continue to do so!

[Commandari] If you are elected in a plebiscite, do you think the comments of the Western Hemisphere would acknowledge the legitimacy of your victory?

[Pinochet] "The principle of non-intervention and the principle of the people's self-determination have usually been heralded and respected in the Western Hemisphere.

We are part of the international community. We have adhered to and respected those basic principles for which we also demand respect. In this regard, we will never bow down because our sovereignty is at stake."

"Chile is not anyone's colony. We are a sovereign country. Thus, Chilean problems will be solved by Chileans. The decisions of the Chilean people cannot be questioned by other states."

[Commandari] But the Chilean image abroad is not good.

[Pinochet] Since it achieved its liberation from communism, Chile has been the target of the largest disinformation campaign ever orchestrated at a world level. This campaign persists because Soviet communism will never forgive the defeat these people have inflicted upon them. Therefore, it should be no surprise if the campaign continues. Yet it is obvious that the truth is gradually being recognized.

I believe Western countries have increasingly accurate and objective information on the Chilean situation, many times from the personal experience of visitors. This is very important for understanding the progress the country has made.

[Commandari] What would be, in your opinion, the reaction of the Soviet bloc?

[Pinochet] The Soviet bloc reaction? To continue to tell lies or, in other words, to persist with the disinformation campaign, following a technique they designed that is dangerously winning new supporters every day.

[Commandari] The country has been observing that there is increasing opposition between the opinion of the executive branch and that of the legislative branch, to the point that even the nomination of a civilian presidential candidate has been mentioned. Is this a political strategy involving your resignation as Armed Forces commander in chief in order to be nominated as a civilian candidate?

[Pinochet] First, I see no contradiction between the executive and legislative branches. Second, as the Constitution sets forth, the candidate for the plebiscite will be nominated by the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces and the general who heads the Carabineros—and not by the legislative branch.

I do not think it would be ethically appropriate to give an opinion on a possible nomination that will depend on other people who should be entirely free of all types of pressure.

[Commandari] Do you think the regime will be able to project itself into the future without the image of Gen Augusto Pinochet?

[Pinochet] The regime's consolidation and projection will be attained with the leader our people will choose in free and secret elections, elections held without restrictions on the flow of information. In this regard, the candidate proposed for the plebiscite and the people's answer will be central factors.

[Commandari] You are a great political strategist. Do you think the sectors that more strongly support you will back another candidate?

[Pinochet] I cannot give an opinion on the subject, because it involves an analysis of the "future" which I have not yet planned.

Anyway, the matter should be considered by the Armed Forces commanders in chief and by the General heading the Carabineros, at the right time and according to the prevailing circumstances.

[Commandari] Don't you think that it would be utopian to believe in the continuation or projection of a regime without your leadership and without the Armed Forces?

[Pinochet] The new institutional order provides for the effective participation of the Armed Forces and the forces of order. Therefore, I cannot see the projection of the regime without their participation. As for the person who will lead the process, as I said before, the Armed Forces commanders in chief and the General heading the Carabineros will thoroughly analyze the situation and will propose to the people the name of the person who, in their opinion, qualifies for leading the new stage.

The important thing is to understand the real meaning of the projection of the regime, which means to be familiar with the essential foundations of the 11 September events. It means understanding the institutional order and what if signifies, without being confused by the enemy's strategy. It means taking action, on the basis of those basic concepts, to strengthen the institutions, style, and habits that throughout these years have helped us achieve development, in the broadest sense of the word.

The Armed Forces and the forces of order have a key role to play: to guarantee the institutional order and, as members of the Higher National Security Council, to ensure the harmonious rule of institutional order. It is natural that these institutions participate in the legal preservation of democracy, a responsibility that should be exercised through a constitutionally established organ, like the National Security Council.

[Commandari] In Spain, after the death of Franco, Francoism was defeated in the elections. Don't you think the same thing will happen in Chile if you are not designated for the plebiscite of 1989?

[Pinochet] Those are two totally different situations. The causes and the processes are so different that it is impossible to draw any comparison, because any attempt would result in superficial, harmful, and misleading comparisons.

Just as I do not agree with foreign intervention, I do not think it is reasonable to take the political process of other countries as a reference, because such processes did not take place in a vacuum, but in an environment different from one country to another.

[Commandari] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has said that Mr Gelbard [U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs] is an intruder who does not have the right to come to inspect what is happening in Chile. Mr Gelbard, however, has met with several government officials and authorities. What is your actual position toward the U.S. envoys to our country?

[Pinochet] Chile is a member of the international community and it maintains multilateral and bilateral relations. Relations with foreign countries cannot be mistaken with the fact that an inspection can be accepted or that sovereignty can be restricted. We should zealously defend our own values and our ability to decide our present and our future. U.S. envoys should be received and they should act within these parameters.

[Commandari] Presidential elections will be held in the United States in 1988. How do you view the U.S. election campaign, taking into account the fact that Chile's internal situation has always been an election issue there?

[Pinochet] The U.S. presidential elections are the exclusive concern of that country, and I have nothing to say about them.

"Of course, candidates must prepare foreign policy plans, and Chile must be included in those plans. I do not know who the candidates are or what their political propositions will be. But regardless of who they are, they must take into account the basic principles of our bilateral relations."

[Commandari] Mr President, throughout your government you have stated that Marxism has done tremendous damage to the country. What is the reason, then, for allowing exiles with Marxist ideas to return to the country?

[Pinochet] Indeed, Marxism, with the indirect participation and support of incautious Chilean political sectors, has been mainly responsible for the crisis leading to 11 September 1973.

"During the first stage of the new institutional system, circumstances demanded that society be protected from all those who would attack the basic principles of the institutional system and promote violence."

"However, as a final solution to this problem, Article 8 was included in the Constitution, which was approved by an overwhelming majority in 1980. This article prohibited individuals or groups from promoting doctrines that attack the family, propose violence, or advocate a totalitarian state based on the class struggle. Legal measures were also studied to punish terrorist actions which are characteristic Marxist-Leninist practices."

Aware that society, through its legal institutions, must defend itself against the implacable Marxist enemy, we have installed an institutional order to deny that enemy access to power.

For the reasons we have just mentioned, all the direct and indirect agents of Marxism have made the reform of the Constitution their prime objective. Their specific target is Article 8 because it stands in the way of advancing their purposes.

Very well then. As the situation permits, those who do not pose a threat to national coexistence will gradually be allowed to return to the country. This is happening now.

[Comandari] Recently, members of the Permanent Episcopate Committee have publicly called for reconciliation among all Chileans. What do you think about this attitude of the Catholic Church?

[Pinochet] Nobone can be opposed to reconciliation. The important thing is to understand why disagreements occur and then try to restablish harmony by working on the cause of those disagreements. Unless this is done, reconciliation does not go beyond banal, yet ineffective, rhetorics. The truth is that we suffered a totalitarian communist aggression which drove us to the brink of civil war and dependency on Soviet imperialism. It is also true that the agression has been kept up with some intensity, causing victims and destruction. That's the problem, but some do not want to see it.

On the other hand, some political groups do not a take firm stand against that real danger. They claim to be opposed to communism, but they work with the communists and facilitate their presence. Thus they get together on initiatives intended to hinder the institutional process.

In sum, the situation is complex and the defense of freedom is a demanding task. In seeking understanding one must be realistic.

[Commandari] Have they also noted the need for open elections and massive registration in the Electoral Registration Offices?

[Pinochet] Now, regarding the Permanent Committee statement on the need for open elections and electoral registration, I repeat what I have said regarding the plebiscite. The reasons for this formula is very powerful, and anyone analyzing those reasons will realize that they are so. As for the registration, I was the first to register and reiterate the importance of registration. So much so that administrative authority has been granted to the Registration Boards through a law, thus to make the registration procedure easier.

I can add this. I expect the bishops to give a more just and less partial vision of the country. I deplore the fact that their statement should be so much in line with the proposals of the political opposition, disregarding aspects of a spiritual nature on which they should really speak.

[Commandari] Will you, in the 11 September message, talk about the government's ultimate position and the regime's continuation. The plebiscite is part of this. Do you have a special message for Chileans?

[Pinochet] The plebiscite provided for in Transitory Article 27 of the 1980 Constitution is a special procedure designed for this stage of consolidation of the institutional regime the country has adopted. It has nothing to do with a traditional presidential election. The plebiscite is meant to give the Chilean people the opportunity to sovereignly decide on a proposition to be made by the Armed Forces commanders in chief and the Carabineros director general.

Registration in the Electoral Board is the first step toward a plebiscite in which all citizens of voting age must participate to express their sovereign will so that the stability of the democratic system and the continuation of the project that has been started can be ensured.

Ecuador

Cordero Examines Economic Development, Policies

PA152332 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Speech by President Leon Febres Cordero live; place not given—broadcast in progress]

[Text]...of the electoral campaign, which stated the urgent need for national reconstruction. This goal fell within the framework of the Ecuadoran reality of earlier years. Distressing compromises were made. There was a serious deterioration of democratic institutions. Economically, the implementation of mistaken policies had created the conditions for a serious crisis, which was worsened by a freeze on foreign credits and the floods caused by El Nino. A little over 3 years of my presidential mandate have passed since then. Thus, I find it essential, timely, and democratic to present myself before the Ecuadoran people, the supreme mandator, to inform them of the work of the government over which I preside. We all know the current government inherited a deep economic crisis. We decided to defeat the crisis by implementing a consistent policy whose leading objective would be to support Ecuadoreans' well-being through liberty and justice.

To do this it was necessary to carry out activities to reactivate the means of production; combat the scourge of inflation; promote national savings by offering investors the confidence they need; create productive jobs; diversify production; rescue the farming sector; and, above all, ensure that our wealth would reach the groups traditionally ignored and isolated. This economic policy was inspired by clear and simple principles. Regarding the exchange rate, it was necessary to adopt a realistic and flexible attitude that would permanently eliminate the problems caused by the trauma of the currency devaluation. In a practical sense, the exchange policy required the allocation of considerable economic resources in order for the rural areas to rescue Ecuador's farming industry and in order to benefit our poorest fellow patriots.

Therefore, this economic policy had to be accompanied by a fair revision of the prices paid to farmers, despite the high and difficult political cost these revisions imply. The exchange policy also had to rationalize the structure and volume of imports. We had to dispense with—to eliminate for once and for all—the clever mechanism of bans on foreign trade that, while creating serious distortions, promoted contraband, the over-invoicing of imports, and all kinds of crimes that violated the state's sovereignty.

The exchange policy had to be aligned with the appropriate financial, credit, and interest rate policies that were in effect. While this subject is quite specialized and, unfortunately, has until recently been the object of controversy at the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal, our key objectives have remained to encourage national savings, to decrease the dependence of the financial system on the Central Bank of Ecuador, and to promote investment financing using Ecuadoran resources, thus decreasing dangerous dependence on foreign resources which, in the long term, will decrease the foreign debt.

To increase national production, it was necessary to have a price policy that would encourage producers, while maintaining balance and equity. Therefore, despite the fact that real prices were applied, inflation has been kept at manageable levels. The national government has strictly adhered to the legal precepts implicit in several laws, such as the price control and quality law, and the hydrocarbon law, which regulate the prices of products subject to obligatory control, while allowing firms to recover costs; this prevents the emergence of new distortions that ultimately would affect services and promote the reemergence of the well-known black markets, greater shortages, higher prices, and inflation.

A decisive aspect of our responsible management of economic policy is the decision regarding jobs and salaries. A difficult struggle has been waged against certain political forces that have repeatedly tried to promote salary increases which, since they are beyond our real financial possibilities, would have had a painful effect on inflation and unemployment. Nevertheless, we have been able to maintain the purchasing power of salaries. Salaries have been increased to more than the expected inflation rate many times and as often as necessary. In other words, I have fulfilled the commitment made during the electoral campaign. That is why during 3 years of my administration the official minimum wage increased four times, from 6,500 to 8,500 to 10,000 to 12,500, and now stands at 14,500 sucres. The minimum, wage is 100-percent higher than when I assumed office.

The economic policy implemented has its virtues, despite the huge loss in resources caused by the drop in the international oil prices over the past, long 20 months, the March earthquake, and the suspension of oil exports for almost 6 months.

Many achievements were made in economic policy during the last 3 months. At least the following achievements must be highlighted:

The first achievement was a diversification of exports to free ourselves from the dependence on oil and to encourage national production. Compelling figures demonstrate that the annual value of nonpetroleum exports rose from $615 million in 1983 to $1.204 billion in 1986. In other words, the value of these exports doubled.

We can estimate that the 1986 level will be maintained or surpassed in 1987, despite the dramatic drop in coffee prices. Analyzing this product-by-product, we can say that banana exports rose from $153 million to $269 million, with the export volume increasing from 910,000 to 1.427 million metric tons. This is a figure that surpasses those reached in any single year of this decade.

Coffee exports went from 75,000 metric tons to 98,000 metric tons, and their value rose from $149 million to $299 million. Cacao bean exports increased from $6 million to $37 million, while processed cacao exports rose from approximately $16 million to $78 million.

Shrimp exports increased from $175 million to $288 million. It is estimated that these exports will surpass $400 million in 1987.

In addition, sea product exports rose from $31 million to $107 million; diversified products exports surpassed $110 million, while in 1983, they reached $73 million.

The figures also indicate an improvement in the country's agricultural and cattle sectors. For this reason, statistics show that home consumer goods, whose production had dropped dramatically to 23 percent in 1983, completely recovered in 1984 and increased by 3.8 percent in 1985 and 8.7 percent in 1986.

All these figures mean that the Ecuadoran people had more food for their survival. From 1983 to 1985, soybean production rose from 14,000 to 63,000 metric tons; bean production increased from 20,000 to 36,000 metric tons; rice production rose from 273,000 to 397,000 metric tons; potato production increased from 314,000 to 423,000 metric tons; corn rose from 229,000 to 371,000 metric tons; and the production of African palm increased from 330,000 to 458,000 metric tons.

I ask you, fellow countrymen: Were all these results achieved by coincidence? Would inflation not have harmed you even more if there had not been a considerable increase in production? Would a slump in agricultural activity not have worsened the situation of the peasants and the cities' crowded conditions? Agricultural policy has not only had positive economic results for the country; it has also had undeniably beneficial social effects in maintaing people's livelihoods, creating many new jobs, and permitting Ecuadoran peasant families to prosper.

A second achievement of fundamental importance deals with the handling of the country's external and financial accounts. Unlike past policies, the foreign debt has been contracted in terms that are advantageous to Ecuador through agreements negotiated with international development institutions or with other governments. The debts contracted by the national government were granted with favorable conditions: with more than 15-year terms; with at least a 4-year grace period for the payment of capital; and with an average interest rate of 7 percent.

With these resources, we were able to support a national effort directed toward national development projects. These projects include the conclusion of the irrigation and hydroelectric system of (Taule)-Peripa, Phase C of the Paute project, the Agoyan hydroelectric plant, the [word indistinct]-Morona road, and the roads included in the sixth road plan. These projects also include programs for agricultural and industrial development and many other housing, health, urban development, technical education, and rural development programs.

During this administration, the country, based on the international prestige achieved as a result of its economic policy, has also achieved the best conditions currently in effect in the international market for refinancing the commercial debt. In addition, it has the unique distinction of being the first and only country in the world to formalize a multiyear refinancing agreement with the governments of the Paris Club.

Despite this, when petroleum prices fell, and when no solution to this situation was in sight within a moderate period, the national government made the political decision to suspend payment of the foreign debt to give priority attention to the urgent needs of the Ecuadoran people. This confirmed the government's firm position that the payment of the country's foreign debt is subordinate to considerations for the country's economic growth and to a guarantee that the climate for international economic relations will be favorable and fair.

In another aspect of the handling of the country's external and financial accounts—specifically that of productive foreign investment—our financial policy has also been pragmatic and fruitful. During these 3 years, foreign investment for petroleum exploration has reemerged, after having been inexplicably abandoned for the past 13 years. Bidding has been opened for prospecting in approximately 4 million hectares in the Amazon and coastal regions and in Ecuador's territorial sea. This has renewed the promise of this resource, the extent and magnitude of which are still unknown in the country.

The savings that you Ecuadoreans have generated have been important to the financing of our national investments. Prior to 10 August 1984, as a result of various financial policies in the country, national savings plummetted. There was a flight of capital and aggressive contracting of foreign debts. As a result, the banks began to depend—in an increasingly more dangerous way—on resources from the Central Bank of Ecuador. Because of this, we decided to make a fundamental change in financial policy to encourage savings and adjust the laws to the demands of a dynamic economy. The easing of

controls of interest rates, along with the public's confidence in economic policy management, have led to a tremendous increase in savings. They increased from 29.964 billion sucres at the end of 1983, to 199.9 billion sucres on 30 June 1987. Ecuadoreans, to put it another way, in 3 and 1/2 years, savings account deposits have increased six-fold from the amount prior to the arrival of the current administration.

Therefore, I can state unequivocally that if it had not been for the policy that we drafted and implemented, we would now have a grave escalation in the price of the dollar, a higher rate of inflation, and a generalized crisis in the Ecuadoran financial system.

As a third achievement, I must point out that the management of foreign and financial accounts was closely coordinated with the fiscal budget. Until 1982, state budget deficits were notorious. They were of such magnitude that they reached up to 7 percent of the country's total production. For example, state deficits were equivalent to the total education budget. For our part, we balanced the budget in 1984. For the first time since 1974, when petroleum prices increased four-fold, in 1985 there was a surplus of 2.2 percent of the gross domestic product. In 1986, despite the massive loss of resources because of a drop in oil prices, the budget deficit was maintained at 2.2 percent of the gross domestic product.

Beginning in 1984, the increase in income tax revenues ranged from 37 to 47 percent a year. To make a comparison, in 1982, those revenues dropped 2.6 percent; and in 1983, they registered a modest 19.7 percent increase. The differences are even more marked in sales tax revenues. In 1984 and 1985, the increase in the revenues was 54 and 58 percent, respectively; while in 1986, it was 98 percent when the tax was raised from 6 to 10 percent. Revenues from customs duties greatly surpassed the variations in the exchange rates.

The economic policy has been aimed at achieving a better standard of living for Ecuadoreans, despite the great harm caused by the drop in oil prices and the earthquake in March. Economic policy has had a practical, social application. Thus, the available resources have been invested in programs for basic medicines and preventive health care, in increased educational and training opportunities, in specific programs to promote the creation of jobs, in more specific safeguards against accidents on the job, and in the defense of wage earners' purchasing power.

We have the legitimate satisfaction of being able to state that one of the clearest effects of our policy has been to have the social costs of these economic adjustments and of the oil crisis affect those sectors with the greatest capacity to defend themselves and to respond to these adjustments, thus reducing the negative impact on the vast majority of the Ecuadoran people. This is tangible testimony to our work in the field of economic policy.

Fellow countrymen, you can be sure that in the rest of this administration's term, we will continue and will even increase our work, inspired by the same ideals and with the necessary responsibility and wisdom to make the best decisions in favor of your best interests, and with the unwavering desire to work for the overall progress of Ecuador. Good evening, and thank you for your attention.

Official Denies Ties With Nicaragua Resumed

PA181938 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Text] National Public Information Secretary Marco Lara Guzman has said the Ecuadoran Government has no intention of resuming diplomatic or consular relations with Nicaragua. Lara Guzman said the article that claimed this, which appeared in a local newspaper this morning, was false. He added that Ecuadoran foreign policy is run by the president, who has not given any instructions in this regard, and that the article on the resumption of relations between our country and Nicaragua simply was not true. Lara Guzman said the circumstances that had obliged the Ecuadoran Government to break off relations with this Central American country have not changed;

[Begin Guzman recording] That information news item simply is not true. According to our Constitution, Ecuadoran foreign policy is run by the president, whose orders on these matters are carried out by the Foreign Ministry. The president has not given any instructions in this regard. Furthermore, the circumstances that existed when we broke off relations with Nicaragua have not changed, and therefore our position has not changed either. [end recording]

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Saldivar on UN Session

PY172152 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 17 Sep 87 p 7

[Text] Paraguayan Foreign Minister Carlos Saldivar said yesterday that "the fact that Paraguay has been voted to the vice presidency of the UN General Assembly this year means that the government headed by President Stroessner has the support of all those countries that voted in our favor. It also demonstrates that our country enjoys international prestige."

Saldivar added: "This is a categorical denial of those who have been proclaiming that the Paraguayan Government is being internationally and regionally isolated." He said, "At the regional level, Paraguay was backed by South American countries and all of them have supported our candidacy. We also had the support of Central American countries, Mexico, Caribbean countries, West European countries, African countries, and the great powers like Japan and others." He said: "Therefore, we received important international support."

Asked about Paraguay's position regarding specific issues that will be raised before the assembly, and specifically regarding the Central American issue, Saldivar said: "Paraguay has supported this region's peace

initiatives. We have closely followed the work carried out by the Contadora Group and most recently that carried out by the Contadora Support Group."

He added: "We have supported everything that will lead to achieving peace in Central America, but without the USSR's intervention, be it either direct intervention or indirect, as is currently happening through Cuba and Nicaragua." He said the Central American problem must be resolved by the region's democratic countries, free of foreign intervention.

Foreign Minister Saldivar also expressed the government's concern regarding international terrorism. In this regard, he said Paraguay advocates an international agreement through which "clauses which are to be included (in the UN Charter) will establish that international terrorists cannot receive asylum or protection in certain territories. This is essential to eradicating this scourge which is causing an increasing number of innocent victims." Foreign Minister Saldivar will leave this weekend for New York where he will deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly session.

Arrives in New York

PY211251 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Sep 87 p 12

[Excerpt] Today Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar will be participating in the 42d UNGA in New York. It is an international meeting and Paraguay will be occupying a vice presidency due to a majority vote of all of the world's nations. Saldivar will address the UNGA and outline Paraguay's current situation.

Saldivar traveled to the United States on 19 September in the company of Jesus Maria Gutierrez, the deputy director of protocol of the Foreign Ministry. In the United States Saldivar met with the Paraguayan delegation that had travelled on an earlier date. The 42d UNGA began on 15 September. [passage omitted]

Political Leaders Meet With Archbishop

PY180349 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Sep 87 p 10

[Text] "It was a very satisfactory meeting," Fernando Vera, Febrerista Revolutionary Party, PRF, president, said when referring to the meeting held by all the members of the National Accord with Msgr Ismael Rolon Silvero, archbishop of Asuncion.

The following political leaders participated in the meeting with the prelate: Domingo Laino and Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin from the Authentic Radical Liberal Party; Jose Maria Bonin from the Christian Democracy; Fernando Vera and Raimundo Careaga, PRF; and Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, Colorado Party Popular Movement.

Vera said all participants expressed their concern for the repressive measures that have been implemented at all national levels since the Colorado Party Militant faction won control of the Colorado Party Executive Board.

The following events took place within the framework of this outbreak of repression: the weekly *El Pueblo* was closed last week; Civic Assembly meetings were disbanded; politicians were arrested; a cultural meeting was violently broken up in Coronel Oviedo; and Catholic priests were threatened and attacked, as in the case of father Ignacio Espinola.

Vera said not all the subjects announced by the media were discussed. He said they simply expressed their concerns to the Paraguayan church, which has an apostolic and social mission without partisan interests, although the church's position regarding human rights and its evangelical and ethical role are well known, since the church preaches for a civilized and brotherly society.

Peru

Garcia on Senate Bank Nationalization Debate

PA220236 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Sep 87

[Interview with President Alan Garcia by unidentified reporter at the Miraflores Club on the Senate debate on nationalizing the financial and banking systems—date not given]

[Text] President Alan Garcia Perez recently held a meeting with American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA] congressmen at the Miraflores Club where he said that the amendments to the bank nationalization bill are legal and help us attain our revolutionary goal.

[Begin recording] [Garcia] This was a brotherly meeting that we normally have. On this occasion, we took advantage of the opportunity to pay homage to a fellow partymember, (Fernando Leon de Vivero), to discuss various political topics; but mostly just to hold a brotherly meeting which we do on a normal basis.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] No, that is being discussed in the Senate. The executive branch's bill has been discussed by the Chamber of Deputies. It is being discussed more slowly in the Senate, but within the revolutionary framework of nationalizing the finance and banking system.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] I think APRA has played several basic roles throughout its history. First, it gave us Latin America's most important political leader [Victor Raul Haya de la Torre], who was the creator of the doctrine. His thoughts have influenced many countries and many political movements trying to recover the hemisphere's cultural identity. Second, APRA became a moral school, a school of historical patience, a school that has given lessons on political heroism. Third, it is a school where we have learned many things through our errors in order to cross a long desert and achieve power. Then, once we reached power, we could fulfill our promises: to make great

changes in Peru in order to achieve justice with absolute freedom. APRA has celebrated another anniversary. It was founded in Peru in September, 1930. On this anniversary I reiterate that the great objectives of the middle class, the national industrialists, and the workers and peasants are being met. Internationally, we feel we are more sovereign now, and our ideas are being heard in every country. Our economy does not follow foreign proposals, and we managed to make our country grow last year, this year, and in the future. We have made democratic changes in state organizations, and we have become closer to the peasant community and the lower classes. We seek social justice to prevent the concentration of economic and political power. We are fulfilling the goals of those who created APRA, and I feel we are being loyal to the people and to national goals, although some may not understand it now. We are also being loyal to Haya de la Torre.

[Reporter] Will the Chamber of Deputies make changes to what the Senate is discussing?

[Garcia] I think we have discussed this at length. I have said that the changes that have been made, that is, changes on the question of constitutionality, and the creation of the regional bank, are very powerful contributions. There is also the change of [words indistinct] from 15 to 30 percent. I think the bill remains unchanged. I think the legislative chambers have the right to contribute to and improve the bills sent by the executive branch. The senators are always in contact, and I reiterate that the bill maintains the basic and revolutionary ideas for nationalizing the financial system and for eliminating the power that four economic groups had over society. [end recording]

Shining Path Attacks Town, Kills 15, Wounds 30

PA170320 Paris AFP in Spanish 0205 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Text] Lima, 16 Sep (AFP)—Government sources confirmed today in Lima that 15 persons were killed and 30 were wounded last night during a "bloody" clash between a column of the Maoist Shining Path and the residents of the town of Sion, San Martin.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister [title as received] Agustin Mantilla announced that 19 seditious elements were captured recently, including a commando group that had plans to murder a high-ranking government official whose identity was not disclosed.

About 200 heavily armed members of Shining Path attacked Sion, Tocache Province, which is the site of terrorism linked to narcotics trafficking, the government morning paper *La Cronica* reported, adding that the terrorists clashed with about 100 residents of the town.

According to the source, 3 peasants and 12 subversives are among the dead, and there are both peasants and rebels among the wounded.

Operation Lightning has been carried out in this area of Alto Huallaga (Amazon area) since mid-July in an effort to wipe out narcotics terrorists from these three provinces—two in San Martin and one in Huanuco—where the state of emergency has been extended for another 60 days.

Meanwhile, 200 policemen and vehicles have been airlifted to Apurimac because of the serious situation prevailing there. A group of Shining Path people last Sunday attacked the city of Chuquibambilla and killed three policemen and wounded four more.

As a result of the attack, the police post, the electoral registrar's office, the Banco de la Nacion, the Agriculture Ministry, and several housing units were destroyed, the Lima morning papers reported.

The regional authorities reported that many towns in the two provinces of Apurimac—Aymaraes and Antabamba, which are under a state of emergency—are isolated and currently occupied by the rebels, while the main Lima-Chalhuanca- Abancay-Cusco highway is completly blocked because nine bridges have been destroyed.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister Mantilla, who returned from Italy and Israel, announced that Israel will advise Peru on the struggle against terrorism, and has sold Peru 1,400 machineguns, 2,300 rifles, and 200 vehicles.

This purchase also entails incorporating Israeli experts as police advisers. In Italy, a donation was promised for the Police Department of a complete vehicle-repair workshop.

Sources from the Antiterrorist Directorate (DIRCOTE) disclosed that the number two man in the Shining Path, Julio Cesar Mizzich, who is the lieutenant of Abimael Guzman, is in Lima directing a new terrorist escalation that has "violently" intensified in recent months.

Mizzich, who was seen in Chaclacayo, 28 km southeast from Lima, was reportedly planning to gather all the "subversive forces" operating in the Andes, in the main cities along the Peruvian coastal area, and particularly in Lima. The police today organized several operations in the area with the purpose of capturing him, and arrested many suspicious characters.

Four Civil Guards Wounded

PA150020 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Sep 87

[Text] Two of the four Civil Guards who were wounded during an attack by approximately 20 terrorists against the Chiquibambilla Civil Guard post in Grau Province, Apurimac, have been evacuated to the police hospital. Civil Guard Carlos Alfonso Herrera Barrios, commanding officer of the post, who has a bullet wound in the stomach; and Civil Guard Pedro Esteban Zelaya Carvajal, who was wounded in the right leg, were brought to Lima at 0930 this morning and taken to the police hospital.

It was learned that the other two civil Guardsmen, Jorge Tomastu and Rigoberto Cruz Hidalgo, will be left at the hospitals in Andahuaylas and Abancay.

According to preliminary reports, the heavy attack took place at 2200 yesterday when over 100 Shining Path members armed with submachineguns, [word indistinct], and explosive devices, surrounded the police post. The terrorists then began shooting and hurling the explosive devices. The policeman on duty responded with fire, and this led to a violent clash that killed one policeman and wounded four. It was learned that 20 Shining Path members were reportedly killed during the attack on the police post, buty they have not been identified. According to police reports, there are several women among the dead terrorists.

5.5 Force Tremor Rocks Northern Region 19 Sep

PA192251 Paris AFP in Spanish 2226 GMT 19 Sep 87

[Text] Lima, 19 Sep (AFP)—A very strong tremor today alarmed the people in a large region in northern Peru. According to initial reports, the tremor caused property damage in Chimbote, 450 km north of Lima.

There is no official information yet about the intensity of the tremor, which took place at 1620 (2140 GMT). According to reports received by ham radio operators, the tremor was strongly felt in Pomabamba, approximately 100 km from Chimbote, and in the city of Caraz, in the so-called region of Callejon de Huaylas. The tremor also caused alarm among the people of Trujillo, 550 km north of Lima. There is no report on casualties.

In Lima, the tremor was felt as a light but lengthy vibration in tall buildings; however, it past unnoticed by people.

Earthquakes Continue 21 Sep [EFE]

PA211931 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1838 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Text] Lima, 21 Sep (EFE)—Another earthquake, this one registering 4.4 on the Richter scale, was reported this morning in Peru, with an epicenter 30 km from Canete, in Lima Department.

The earthquake, which took place at 7:33 local time (1233 GMT), registered an intensity of 2 to 3 on the Richter scale in Lima, and was felt only in tall buildings.

Efrain Fernandez, an official at the Peruvian Geophysical Institute, indicated that today's earthquake and those reported on Saturday and Sunday were caused by tectonic movements in the Peruvian coastal zone, which released the energy accumulated there.

An earthquake reported on Saturday registered 5.5 on the Richter scale in the northern part of Peru, and 5.3 in the southern part of the country.

Yesterday, likewise, three earthquakes were reported, registering 4, 4.8, and 5 on the Richter scale, in the northern department of Ancash, the Peruvian official reported.

These continuous earthquakes have alarmed the Peruvian people, although no casualties have been reported. A few adobe homes have been destroyed, however. In the northern part of the country the earthquakes were accompanied by heavy winds and rains.

Uruguay

Sanguinetti Meets Norwegian Foreign Minister

PY181818 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Sep 87

[Text] Norway is interested in expanding bilateral relations with Uruguay, the Norwegian foreign minister has said. He came to our country accompanying a group of the World Commission on Environmental Protection which delivered to president Julio Sanguinetti the text of a world declaration on ecological problems.

After meeting with the president, the Norwegian foreign minister said that we found in the president someone who is genuinely interested in, and knowledgeable on, ecological problems.

Civilian Courts To Try Coup d'Etat Commanders

PY171659 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0050 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Sep (EFE)—It was reported today that the Uruguayan Supreme Court has rejected the suits which question the jurisdiction of civilian courts in handling the cases of the former Army and Air Force commanders who are charged with taking part in the coup d'etat perpetrated on 27 June 1973.

General Hugo Chiappe Posse and General Jose Perez Caldas, both of whom are retired, were responsible for the coup that installed a 12-year dictatorship in Uruguay.

The Supreme Court has informed Deputy Lorenzo Rovira, who filed the suits and who is a member of the "Broad Front" leftist coalition, about its decision.

Rovira raised charges against the commanders who headed the coup and against Juan Maria Bordaberry, who was Uruguayan president at the time, for "violating the constitution" and for "rebellion."

Regarding Bordaberry, who was democratically elected in 1971 and who later dissolved Congress in 1973, the Supreme Court decided that, before formal charges were raised against him, he should have been impeached.

Charges against two other persons, Victor Gonzalez Ibargoyen, and Walter Ravenna, who at the time were the navy commander and the defense minister, respectively, were dropped because they have both died.

Chiappe Posse and Perez Caldas had opposed the appeals requesting that their cases be tried by a civilian court. They wanted a military court to handle their cases.

The Supreme Court ruling, which is strictly of a technical nature, establishes that "no decision is made regarding court jurisdiction," and it states that this may be later questioned by the military courts.

If the Supreme Military Court claims jurisdiction on this case, a jurisdiction trial may take place in which the Supreme Court, to be made up of five civilians and two military judges, must pass a ruling.

In the jurisdiction trials that have been carried out since democracy was restored in the country, the Supreme Court has always ruled in favor of civilian courts "because these are times of peace."

Human Rights Referendum Signatures Sufficient

PY191551 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 19 Sep 87

[Text] The national commission for a referendum to repeal the law that ended the trials of military officers who allegedly committed human rights violations has announced that it has more than enough signatures to hold the referendum.

During a press conference, commission spokesmen reported that the commission has collected 554,832 signatures, and that this number is more than the number of signatures required by the Constitution—554,000, or 25 percent of registered voters.

Nevertheless, commission members called on people to double their efforts in view of the need to gather more support in order to succed in the control stage, which will be carried out by the electoral court early in 1988.

The collection of signatures will end on 22 December, 1 year after the government approved the law exempting those military officers charged with human rights violations from standing trial.

Venezuela

Lusinchi Discusses Foreign Debt Amendment

PA200307 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Sep 87

[Text] President Jaime Lusinchi stated this afternoon, during his tour through Barcelona, that the signing of an amendment to Venezuela's foreign debt refinancing agreement will have positive results for our national economy.

[Begin recording] Too many viewpoints are being given concerning our economy and currency. Even though everyone has the right to issue his own viewpoint, I believe that they should think before issuing viewpoints, which are mostly detrimental to our country. I sincerely urge them to be more careful when issuing viewpoints about economy and currency. Many who know absolutely nothing about the matter issue viewpoints here about the dollar. Others simply support what pseudo-economists or technicians say about this topic. [end recording]

Consalvi Denies Mistreatment of Colombians

PA162214 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1910 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] Caracas, 16 Sep (DPA)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi denied today that the Venezuelan authorities are mistreating Colombians who cross the border into Venezuela.

In statements made public today by the Caracas press, the Venezuelan foreign minister pointed out that President Lusinchi's orders, Venezuelan traditions, and the feelings of all Venezuelans toward the Colombian community "all seem indicate anything except mistreatment."

The foreign minister emphasized that "the fact that over 1 million Colombians have freely chosen to live in this country to develop their activities and lives seems to indicate the opposite concerning a discriminatory treatment," adding that "anyone who says there is discrimination against foreigners in Venezuela is simply not stating the truth."

He added that blowing the facts out of proportion and trying to turn Venezuela into a discriminatory country "is neither in line with the truth nor in line with defending the interests of a large community such as the Colombian community residing in Venezuela."

On the other hand, he said that trade between Colombia and Venezuela "far from being interrupted, should be intensified." Therefore, binational commissions are seeking agreements in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, development, and petroleum.

"We feel it is advisable that commercial relations between Colombia and Venezuela be regulated in the best manner possible so trade will not be interrupted, but—on the contrary—be consolidated in a balanced manner," he emphasized.

Judicial Inquiry on Drug Traffickers' Release

PA170455 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Report by Alexis Rosas]

[Text] The police are investigating if seven alleged drug traffickers, who were acquitted by Judge Carlos Silva Garrido, have left the country. The Judicial Council has opened an investigation on this judge's decision. The prosecutor's office has presented a petition to the Supreme Court for the annulment of this ruling.

Judge Carlos Silva Garrido ordered the release of seven people who had been arrested by the Judicial Technical Police in March 1986 for possession of 106 kg of cocaine. The judge said that there were some irregularities in this case. In addition, the judge said that he had not read the entire file because the irregularities occurred at the beginning of the case. The people were released, although Judge Aracelly Quintana de Gutierrez, judge of the 5th Penal Court of Common Pleas, had sentenced the prisoners to 15 years in jail.

[Begin Silva Garrido recording] I made no statement about the possession of the drugs, because I believed that proper legal procedures were not followed. Therefore, I ordered a stay in the proceedings, because it is not possible to continue a trial that has so many flaws. [end recording]

The men who have been released are: Eduardo Remolina Lozano, a Colombian who is allegedly linked to Pablo Escobar Gaviria, one of the drug trafficking chiefs working with Carlos Ledher, currently being tried in the United States; Jaime Castillo Castellanos, also a Colombian, 28 years old; Eliseo Oladez Oropesa, 34; (German Parababid) 42, who worked for an airline company; and the Venezuelans Jaime Prato Carrera, Ramon Chiraud, and Carmen Alicia Rivero.

Public Prosecutor Dr Elvia Delgado announced that there is a petition for annulment to enable the Supreme Court to study the case.

[Begin Judicial Magistrate Olivares Bosque recording] We must be aware of the seriousness of this problem. I think if a judge is to acquit an indicted man who has been charged with drug trafficking, the judge must be very careful. I do not think, however, that judges must pass sentences to please the public. I do not think this is right. Judges must keep their attention centered on the evidence on file. [end recording]

We hope this investigation will not last for an indefinite time, as happened with both the investigation of the 16 judges presumably bribed by lawyer Arturo Bravo Amado, and dealings with evictions ordered by department and municipalities judges.

Suriname

Terrorist Camp Destroyed by Army

FL151926 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 15 Sep

[Text] Last week the National Army wiped out a terrorist camp near Pokigron in the Brokopondo District. During the Army operation, most of the 40 terrorists in the camp lost their lives including gangleader (Michael Apudu). Military sources say that (Apudu) was the man who killed Army Sergeant Martin. The National Army found many vehicles which were stolen by the terrorists. It also captured weapons, radio apparatus, and other materiel. The Surinamese news agency says that the villagers of Pokigron suffered tremendously because of the presence of the terrorists in the area. The villagers were disarmed by the terrorists which resulted in their inability to hunt while the little food they had was taken. As a result, many villagers fled into other areas on the north. The Army, in the meantime, has offered food and medicine to the serious cases.

The terrorists who were at the camp at Pokigron were engaged not only in terrorism. During mopping up operations by the Army, hectares of marijuana fields were uncovered, part of which have already been destroyed. The members of the jungle commando sprayed the plants with weed killers which resulted in the drying up of the plants for early market. An Army spokesman urged users of marijuana to stop using the drug, since it has become more dangerous because of the chemical application.

Bouterse Visits Camp

FL211807 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Text] Over the weekend, Commander Bouterse paid a 1-day visit to Pokigron, southeast of Suriname [as heard]. In mopping up operations of the area last week by the National Army, a large terrorist camp was destroyed. During his visit, the commander addressed villagers and soldiers in the area.

Assembly Approves Referendum Arrangements

PM161019 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 2 Sep 87 p 2

["Own Correspondent" dispatch: "Surinamese National Assembly Approves Referendum Legislation"]

[Excerpt] Paramaribo, 2 Sep—The Surinamese parliament, the National Assembly, last night approved the so-called organic law for the country's constitutional referendum. When the assembly deputies also give their approval to election legislation and the law covering political parties in the near future, the last obstacles to free elections will have been removed.

However, many Surinamers have reservations about the referendum. It contains a clause (inserted by Bouterse) that the constitution cannot be amended before it is submitted to the electorate for approval in December. There is also disagreement between Bouterse and some Surinamese politicians over the question whether after this date constitutional changes have to be sanctioned by the population or by a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly. Bouterse considers the referendum to be the correct instrument, while his opponents take the view that constitutional changes must be put before the country's elected parliament.

The Surinamese electorate will vote on different dates to elect National Assembly deputies and representatives for the regional assemblies, the so-called Provincial Councils [resortraden]. Prime Minister Jules Wijdenbosch explained that the elections have been kept separate in order to avoid confusion over ballot papers. National Assembly deputies will, as agreed, be elected by the voters 25 November. The elections for the regional assemblies will be held earlier, but the date for these has not yet been set. Voters entitled to vote in the referendum on the draft constitution to be held 30 September must have reached the age of 18 by 29 September at the latest. For the National Assembly elections only those who have reached the age of 18 by 26 October will be entitled to vote. [Passage omitted]

Brunswijk Rebels to Disrupt Referendum

FL181950 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 18 Sep 87

[Text] The leader of a rebel group fighting to overthrow Suriname's military government says that insurgents will try to disrupt a constitutional referendum scheduled for

September 30th. He did not specify what actions the guerrillas might take. Commander Joseph, as he is called, a 38-year-old native of Paramaribo and an aide to rebel leader Ronnie Brunswijk, has asked that he be identified only by his pseudonym. Mr Joseph's position in the rebel movement, known as jungle commando, was verified through sources familiar with the insurgents.

The proposed charter calls for the indirect election of a president, by vote of the legislature, and gives the military a leading role in the Surinamese Government. Observers have said that the military ruler wants the referendum, and national elections scheduled for November, to show the international community that Suriname is moving toward democracy.

Assembly Approves Political Party Law

FL151946 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] The National Assembly, early this morning, unanimously adopted the law on political parties. The law says that political organizations must not discriminate regardless of race, religion, or ethnic differences. Further, it says that political organizations must be registered and that they must publish annual financial reports in the official gazette. It also says that party elections must be arranged according to the statutes and that persons must be elected by majority vote. The members, however, disagreed with a clause which says that in order to contest in elections, a political party must command the support of at least 1 percent of the electorate. They urged that this clause be deleted from the proposal without success. The law on political parties was unanimously adopted without amendments.

Parties Oppose New Law

FL162124 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] Central Organization for Civil Service Employees [CLO] assemblyman, (?Samuel Ketwaru), told the Houseon Monday night, that the law on political parties does not [word indistinct] like democracy. (?Ketwaru) is of the opinion that any article which states that political organizations should have the support of at least 1 percent of the electorate, should be deleted from the constitution (?or voted with formality) if the article is retained. In our newscast yesterday, it was inadvertently stated that assembly members unanimously adopted the law on political parties. The law on political parties was,in fact, passed by 15 votes for and 5 against.

A few representatives of the Surinamese Manufacturers' Association left the House before voting time because they did not agree with the article. The CLO and the C-47 [Centrale 47] representatives to the Assembly voted against the law.

French Reportedly Aid Rebels

FL162148 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] Dutch journalist (Willhem Aldman), who spent a few weeks in Cayenne, said that the French authorities are giving assistance to the terrorist group of Ronnie Brunswijk. (Aldman) said that Brunswijk and his terrorist group move freely through Cayenne although the French [word indistinct] said they would be arrested if they set foot on French Guianese soil.

The Dutch journalist left a few weeks ago for Cayenne to meet with terrorist leader Ronnie Brunswijk on (Stoupan Island). (Aldman) said that he was warned by members of the jungle commando not to go to (Stoupan Island); otherwise, he would be humiliated because of his relations with the authorities in Paramaribo.